33-1944

# Wife's Fall Not Accidental, Charge Man With Murder

12-2-44

Louisiana Weekly

A supplementary bulletin issued by local police reveals that the death of Mrs. Dorothy Wright, 20-year-old wife of Charles Wright, 38 years, who resided at 3225 Gravier Street, was not the result of an accidental fall but a fall caused by her husband when he pushed her backwards following an argument. In the original report made to the police, Charles Wright stated that he had been out with his wife late Saturday night, November 25, for a ride in their automobile. When they reached home at about 1:30 the next morning, he got out of the car before his wife and walked up the front steps, about three or four feet high, in front of her. Wright stated that as she walked up the steps behind him, she fell in some unknown manner, striking her head on the pavement or sidewalk, fracturing her neck. A Charity Hospital ambulance was summoned. However, Mrs. Wright was pronounced dead from a broken neck on the arrival of the ambulance.

In the last report issued by local police, it was learned by the investigating officers that Charles Wright had not given a true story to police when reporting his wife's fall.

New Orlean, La.

After the interne on the ambulance had pronounced Mrs. Wright dead, her body was sent to the morgue where an autopsy was performed by Dr. Philip Montelepre, assistant coroner, which revealed that death resulted from "shock following fracture of the fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae, with severance of the spinal cord" and further investigation was requested.

The investigating officers then located witnesses who stated that they saw Wright strike his wife with his hand, causing her to fall from the steps to the ground. He then jumped down on the sidewalk and kicked and stomped his wife, after first arguing with her over having talked to other men.

Tuesday evening, November 28, an affidavit was filed in the criminal district court charging Wright with the murder of his wife. Wright was arrested in Biloxi, Miss., when he went there to attend the funeral of his wife.

# $500 Reward Posted In Murder of 13 Year Old Montgomery School Girl

Alabama Citizen

Tuskaloosa

A-a

(By Alabama Tribune-Citizen-Review News Service)

11-4-44

Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 30.—A reward totaling $500 is being offered by angry citizens of the capital for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of little Amanda Baker, 13-year-old student of the Laboratory High School located on the campus of the State Teachers College. The finding of the poisoned body of the child on the Central of Georgia Railroad tracks last week aroused the anger of the city's Negro population who readily matched a reward of $250 posted by Governor Chauncey Sparks. Although no suspect has been arrested, municipal, state and county police officials are looking for an unidentified white man with whom the child was last seen riding near the outskirts of the city. Examination of the body by the State Toxicologist disclosed that death resulted from hydrochloric acid, forcibly administered. The Citizen's Committee, headed by Rev. V. L. Lewis and E. D. Nixon, drew the admiration of local city and county officials for the interest they are displaying by raising funds for the punishment of parties responsible for this brutal crime.

# Death Sentence Affirmed By Court

World

ATLANTA, GA.

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

The Georgia Supreme Court Wednesday affirmed the death sentence of Henry Glass, of Atlanta, alleged to have been an accessory in the McDaniel street section of Lonnie Johnson, a soldier.

11-23-44

Glass and Jimmie Lee Tye were charged with killing Johnson, whom they charged with cutting one of their buddies," a sailor. It was charged that Tye and Glass hunted up Johnson and that Tye stabbed him in the presence of Glass and after Glass had cursed him and accused him of the previous cutting.

# Attack On Girl Brings "Chair"

World

ATLANTA, GA.

Daily World - Atlanta.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ISNS)—A Worley James, who heard a jury order the death sentence imposed against him Tuesday night for attacking a Negro girl, may not stand trial during the current term of court on charges of slaying a 19-year-old white bride. Solicitor Temple Seibels said another assault case would be called against James Wednesday.

## 14 YEAR OLD BOY DIES IN CHAIR FOR KILLING 2 GIRLS

Columbia, S. C., June 16 (AP).—A 14 year old Negro boy was put to death in the state's electric chair today for the slaying of two white girls at Alcolu, who were beaten with a railroad spike while they were out picking wild flowers.

The slayer, George Junius Stinney Jr., was the youngest person ever to die in the electric chair here.

**Slayer, 73, Executed.**

Jefferson City, Mo., June 16 (AP).—After seven reprieves, 73 year old Allen Lambus, a Negro, was executed in Missouri's lethal gas chamber today for the slaying of a teen age Negro girl.

## TOO MANY MURDERS

A period of killing, cutting and the like is pervading the community more so than ever. Linked with these may be mentioned the other forms of lawlessness. The wanton action of both men and women is appalling. It is an easy matter to say that they should be stopped, but it requires the inward working of the offenders to do so. Along with these the severity of court action may deter some from being so ready with the gun, knife, etc. The horrible death of the young woman last week forced the people to be agog. The real cause is not known and judgment can not now be given. Evidence will disclose it. The court will do its duty also the jurors. The intricacy of the law and presentation by the lawyers may be contrary to the thoughts of many. However, the community should be spared of these wanton deaths.

## Negro Dies In Electric Chair After Clearing Companion Of Guilt

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Joe Vernon, one of two Birmingham Negroes convicted for the fatal shooting of Bennie Montgomery, Woodlawn filling station employe in 1937, died in the electric chair early Friday after having confessed to killing Montgomery and exonerating the other Negro, L. C. Bell, of the shooting.

"I am ready to meet my Maker," Vernon said after he had been placed in the electric chair. "I'm ready," he repeated just before the switch was thrown.

Before Vernon went to the electric chair at Kilby Prison shortly after midnight, Gov. Chauncey Sparks had announced that Vernon, in a statement made at Kilby Prison Wednesday, had confessed the crime, and Gov. Sparks announced he was commuting the death sentence of Bell, who was to have died with Vernon, to life imprisonment.

The governor said Vernon's statement cleared Bell of the actual shooting, with Vernon taking full responsibility for the shooting.

Due to Vernon's confession and the extreme youth of Bell at the time of the shooting, and the fact that Bell had no serious previous criminal record, the governor said he was commuting Bell's sentence to life imprisonment. He said that Vernon was a "hardened criminal with a serious record" and that Vernon was "the leader and perpetrator of this crime."

Montgomery was slain at a filling station in Woodlawn, Birmingham, where he was employed in 1937. Both Vernon and Bell were convicted of the murder and were given clemency hearings when Gov. Frank Dixon was in office.

## Negroes Offer $500 Reward In Poison Case

A contribution of $500 made by negroes of Montgomery to be used in seeking information toward the solution of the murder of Amanda Baker, 14-year-old negro schoolgirl, was reported to Solicitor Temple Seibels yesterday by the Rev. V. L. Lewis, negro minister.

Previously, Gov. Sparks had announced a reward of $200 for information leading to the crime's solution.

Meanwhile, Solicitor Seibels said yesterday, State toxicologists, following an examination of the body, had reported to him that she was killed by hydrochloric acid being poured down her throat.

Upon her failure to return home from school on or about Oct. 10, a search was made for Amanda Baker, resulting in the finding of her body on the outskirts of town. Her mouth and face showed evidence of acid burns.

Advised by the Rev. Lewis to use the money raised by the negroes in any way he saw fit, Solicitor Seibels said yesterday his first step was an advertisement, running this morning in the want ad columns, offering a suitable reward for any information leading to the discovery of Amanda Baker's schoolbooks which she is said to have had with her upon leaving school on the day she failed to return home, and also offering suitable reward for information concerning a pair of gold-rimmed glasses she was thought to have been wearing.

Members of the City Police Department, the sheriff's force, the solicitor and a leading negro society are all working on the case, but so far, they have discovered no evidence of any importance in locating the murderer or establishing a motive for the crime, Solicitor Seibels said.

## Man Killed In Knife Battle After Dance

HOUSTON.—While seven or eight thousand persons danced and listened to the Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald and Cootie Williams' orchestra at the Coliseum Tuesday, a fight between Joe Alexander, 615 Jamison, and his girl friend's father-in-law, Timothy Gilmore, was started. Several hours after the dance, the fight was resumed at Gilmore's house in 5th Ward. It ended in the slaying of Alexander and the serious wounding of Gilmore, early Wednesday morning.

The body of 34-year old Alexander was found by police, lying face down, several yards from Gilmore's home at 2801 Buck. He had been shot one time in the left shoulder, stabbed once in the stomach, and had a 3-inch cut, six inches above the navel which extended across the stomach.

According to police, Alexander had taken Miss Helen Mack, stepdaughter of Gilmore, to the dance the early part of the night. While there the couple is reported to have encountered Gilmore and the two of them began arguing. Witnesses said that the men had begun fighting at the dance and were soon separated.

After the dance Alexander took Miss Mack home, where he was met by Gilmore again and after a few brief words, both men were cited to have begun their knife battle. Witnesses said Alexander stabbed Gilmore in the top of the head, and the latter stabbed Alexander in the somach.

Leaving Alexander staggering from the knife blows, and he, himself, staggering from his wound Gilmore, witnesses reported, went into his house, got his pistol and shot Alexander.

Judge Tom Maes held the inquest, and the body of Alexander was turned over to the Ross-Stripling funeral home.

Gilmore was taken to Jefferson Davis hospital where he was treated for his wound and released. Although police said that a murder charge will be filed against Gilmore in Judge Maes' court, no charges had been filed at press time.

## New Orleans Soldier Shot Fatally By Army Lt. At Camp Claiborne

—Gun Crazed Husband Kills Wife And Two Policemen

New Orleans, Sept. 13.—Word was received here today that Pvt. Leonard P. Washington, 26, son of Mrs. Nannie Washington, well known New Orleans resident, was fatally shot last week at Camp Claiborne by a white officer after he was allegedly attacked by the private.

The provost marshal's report states that Washington had been drinking and after he had been placed under arrest he broke away and attempted to leave the post in a government conveyance but was caught and it was then that he attacked Lt. Kermit Bates and was killed. It is also reported that an investigation is now being held at Claiborne.

## Four Indicted For Brutally Murdering A Negro In Texas

HOUSTON, Texas — A grand jury indicted four men—two former policemen and two Negroes—on charges of murdering a Negro, Arthur J. Gaines, 48.

The four-count indictment accused the four men of beating Gaines with a rubber hose, striking him with their hands and feet and with a blunt instrument.

Gaines allegedly was beaten in connection with questioning about several burglaries. He had served three prison terms for theft.

One of the defendants, Detective H. N. Martin, was dismissed from the force after the beating last week. The other police officer was a former special policeman, and the two Negroes allegedly were police "stool-pigeons."

pierce were seriously injured in the crash and were rushed to the Chicago hospital.

Ironically, Breedlove, though in a critical condition; still lives, according to reports from Bridewell hospital, where he was later tak-

CHICAGO — (PPNS) — The brutal slaying Saturday evening of a housewife and two city policemen by a gun crazed husband blighted the joy of Christmas for survivors of the deceased, and has local residents dazed and shocked by the stark tragedy that left in its wake tears and anguished hearts.

The prelude to death began on Saturday morning in the Breedlove apt., at 5149 Prairie Ave. when Kermit Breedlove and his wife, Goldie quarreled bitterly because she had attended a party the night before. The smoldering blaze of Breedlove's anger was fired to maniacal propotions by whiskey and jealousy, and in a fit of rage he grabbed a revolver; the next moment his wife lay dead upon the floor with five bullet wounds in her body. Police summoned by neighbors arrived on the scene in answer to a call that there was disturbance at the address given.

Not suspecting that a mad man stood waiting in the apartment, officer Sam Black, veteran of 27 years on the police force, invaded the room to see Breedlove standing over the body of his spouse. Without warning Breedlove sent a bullet crashing into the head of Black, who was killed instantly. The killer then advanced into the hallway and encountered Ezra Caldwell, Black's partner. After a flurry of shots, in which Breedlove was wounded twice, Caldwell retreated to the streets to relate [illegible]

# 27 Fort Lawton Soldiers Get Long Prison Terms

12-19-44

Northwest Herald Seattle, Washington

Prison sentences aggregating more than 200 years were meted out last night to 27 Negro soldiers found guilty of rioting in connection with the fatal raid made on the barracks of former Italian prisoners of war at Fort Lawton on August 14.

The three men charged with murder, as a result of the death of Guglielmo Olivotto, Italian private, were not found guilty of this offense but two of them were convicted of the lesser offense of manslaughter.

### 3 Heaviest Sentences

These two drew the heaviest sentences of all. Cpl. Luther Larkin, 23, Helena, Ark., got 25 years and Pvt. William G. Jones, 20, Decatur, Ill., got 15 years.

Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks 22, Houston, Tex., the third man charged with murder, was found not guilty on this count, but received the next heaviest sentence, 12 years.

Those sentenced to 10 years imprisonment were: Pvt. Richard Barber, 22, Chicago; T/4 John S. Brown, 22 Lancaster, S. C.; Pvt. Jefferson D. Green, 28, San Antonio Tex.; Pvt. Frank Hughes, 30, Hearne, Tex.; T/5 Willie Prevost Sr., 27, Franklin, La.; T/5 Arthur L. Stone, 24, Detroit, Mich.; Pvt. Richard L. Sutliff, 24, Houston, Tex., and Pvt. Wallace A. Wooden, 36, Chicago, Ill.

12-19-44

### Five and Four Years

Eight-year sentences were imposed on T/5 Willie S. Curry, 20, Shreveport, La.; Pfc. John L. Hamilton, 19, Houston, Tex.; Pvt. Robert Sanders, 21, Chicago, Ill.; T/5 Leslie Stewart, 19, Austin, Tex.; Pvt. Booker Townsell, 29, Milwaukee, Wis. and T/5 David Walton, 34, Chicago, Ill.

Five-year sentences were decreed for Cpl. Johnny Ceaser, 22, Chicago, Ill.; Pvt. Loary M. Moore, 23. Ellinger, Tex., and T/4 Booker W. Thornton, 36, Chicago, Ill.

The following received four-year sentences: Pvt. James C. Chandler Jr., 21, Kansas City, Mo.; Cpl. Russell L. Ellis, 32, Oklahoma City, Okla.; T/5 Freddie L. Simmons, 35, Rocksprings, Tex., and Pvt. Elva Shelton, 20, St. Louis, Mo.

T/5 Nathaniel Spencer, 33, Detroit, Mich., was sentenced to three years. It was erroneously reported at first that Spencer had been acquitted, but the man who was actually found not guilty was Sgt. C. W. Spencer, 43, Forest City, Ary.

Pvt. Samuel Snow, 19, Leesburg, Fla., who was knocked unconscious at the start of the fight, presumably by one of his own comrades, was sentenced to only one year's imprisonment.

### One Sentence Withheld

The sentence imposed on one convicted man, Pfc. Roy L. Montgomery, 23, Greenwood, Miss., who was stricken with pneumonia at the close of the trial and removed to the Fort Lawton hospital, was not announced.

Lt. Col. Gerald W. O'Connor, law member of the court announced in advance that Montgomery's fate would not be made public until he is in better health. The court notified Lt. Col. Leon Jaworski, trial judge advocate, of Montgomery's sentence and Colonel Jaworski will pass it along to the convening authority, Brig. Gen. Eley P. Denson, commanding general of the Seattle Port of Embarkation. General Denson will notify Montgomery of the court's decision when he deems fit.

In addition to dishonorable discharge forfeiture of pay and allowances and confinement, each sentence carried with it a reduction to the grade of private in the cases of all non-commissioned officers.

The prisoners were not brought into court en masse as they have been at all previous sessions, but one by one, each escorted by a sergeant of military police. As soon as Col. Wilmar W. Dewitt, president of the court, read his sentence each defendant was led out of the courtroom.

### Take It Standing

All the prisoners received their sentences with stoic courage, and most of them saluted Colonel Dewitt as smartly after hearing the judgment as they had when they first marched into court.

Mrs. Sadie Hughes, mother of Private Sanders, and the young wife of Private Barber, were in court when the sentences were announced. Tears poured down Mrs. Hughes' face when she heard the husband of the young woman sitting next to her sentenced to 10 years. But she steeled herself to such a degree by the time her own son was sentenced to 8 years that she displayed no emotion whatever.

Colonel Jaworski and his assistant, Capt. Robert Branand III, and the two defense counsels, Maj. William Beeks and Capt. Howard D. E. Noyd, sat in court during the pronouncement of sentences, but took no part in the proceedings.

The reviewing authority, which must pass on all sentences before they can be put into effect, has the power to suspend that part of a sentence calling for dishonorable discharge and to order any prisoner confined in a rehabilitation center, from which he may be restored to duty in time if his behavior warrants it.

Some of the convicted men, bitter about the severity of the penalties imposed, declared outside the courtroom that they weren't concerned about their dishonorable discharges.

But they were taken to task by Stone, a former boxing star under 10 years' sentence.

"I want an honorable discharge," he said, "and I'm willing to go overseas and fight for 10 years to prove I'm a good soldier."

Editor's note: We have no comment to make until after the review of the trial.

# Says He Didn't Kill---Lacked A License!

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

12-27-44

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 26.—(AP) Clarence Hill, Negro soldier charged with a six-year-old lovers' lane shotgun slaying, testified today under cross-examination that he had said he was guilty to a military policeman guarding him at Fort Dix "because I wanted to get help."

Hill testified he had been at the election polls with his family on the night of November 8, 1938, when 15-year-old Mary Myatovich, of Trenton, and 20-year-old Vincenzo Tonzello were shot while sitting in a parked car on Bleak Duck island, lovers' lane in nearby Hamilton township.

In response to questions by Cougle, the witness asserted he could not have driven to Duck island on the night of the tragedy, as the statement he signed narrated, because he had not renewed his drivers' license since 1934.

## "Lower 13" Slayer to Die on January 5

Afro American Baltimore, Md. 12-16-44

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Robert L. Folkes, convicted in the "Lower 13" murder case of Mrs. Martha V. James, white, wife of a Navy ensign, has been sentenced to die in the Oregon gas chamber January 5 following denial of a review by the Supreme Court of his charge that his confession was obtained by force.

## Subway motorman shot by juveniles in street fight

Los Angeles Tribune Col

NEW YORK—A subway motorman, James D. Blackman, was shot and killed in the cross-fire of a gun battle, involving juvenile boys, here last week. Paul Nelson, 16, who said he carried the gun because he had been warned a rival gang was out to get him, fired the bullet which felled Blackman, according to police.

# 9 GI'S Sentenced to Life in England

AFRO-AMERICAN

11-18-44 BALT. MD.

By B. M. PHILLIPS
AFRO War Correspondent

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LONDON (By Cable) — Nine of ten soldiers, all members of a quartermaster service unit, overseas since July, convicted at a general court-martial Friday in the October 5 killing of two colored MP's and a Kingsclere tavernkeeper's wife, face dishonorable discharges and life terms in prison.

11-18-44

The tenth, convicted of riotous assembly and being absent without leave, is Pvt. Herbert Lawton, 29, of NYC, who was freed on the murder charge, but found guilty of being AWOL. He faces ten years at hard labor, in addition to dishonorable discharge.

All of the sentences are subject to review by Gen. Isaac Eisenhower.

### Nine Given Life Terms

The soldiers given life terms at hard labor are:

Pvts. Ernest Burns, 19, Cochran, Ga.; Willie J. Crawford, 19, NYC; Hildrith H. Fleming, 26, Tampa, Fla.; Herbert Moultrie, 20, Georgetown, S.C.; Percy D. Oree, 19, Birmingham, Ala.;

Pfcs. James L. Agnew, 24, Worth, W.Va.; John E. Lockett, 30, Petersburg, Va.; Willie Washington, 32, Texarkana, Texas; and Cpl. John W. Lilly, 19, Thomasville, N.C.

### Weep on Hearing Sentence

The two military policemen not guilty.

killed outside the Crown Hotel in Private Crawford, the only one Kingsclere, were Jacob J. Ander- to testify, said he overheard Privson an Joseph Coates and the tav- ate Burns say they were going to ern-keeper's wife was Mrs. Rose get the MP's. Fleming and Lock- Napper. ett cried when sentence was pronounced.

The accused men reportedly left their camp AWOL and were ordered back by the MP's. They allegedly returned later and opened fire on the officers. All pleaded

33-1944

Oregon

# Lieut. James Killed In Crash; Bride Was Slain on Train

Post - Washington, D.C
9-30-44

Seattle, Sept. 29 (AP)—The thirteenth Naval District today announced that Lieut. Richard F. James, whose bride was slain in the "lower 13" pullman car murder case in Oregon a year ago last January, was killed yesterday in the crash of his training plane. The plane caught fire at 15,000 feet and crashed 20 miles northwest of Pasco, Wash.

He was the son of Mrs. Lucille Floyd James, Nassawadox, Va. His bride, Martha Virginia James, 21, formerly of Norfolk, Va., was killed by a man who entered her berth and cut her throat shortly after 4 a. m., January 23, 1943, as she was en route from Seattle to San Diego, Calif. 9-30-44

Robert E. Lee Folkes, Negro dining car cook, was convicted of the slaying and his execution sentence is stayed pending appeal.

# 29th Homicide Recorded Here

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

## Mrs. Brice, 33, Latest Victim

8-8-44

Atlanta's twenty-ninth Negro homeside of the year was recorded Sunday on police books, compared with 17 whites for the same period.

Victim Was Mrs. Willie Brice, 33,

**29** of 728 Martin street, S. E., who was fatally cut below the ear on the right side of her neck with a knife about 12:30 a. m. Sunday in her home. She died almost instantly police said in making the report and was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady where she was rushed following the cutting.

8-8-44

Held by police on suspicion of murder charges after admitting the cutting was Albert Joe Brice, 35, of the same address, husband of the victim. Police said that on reaching the scene of the tragedy they found the woman lying on the ground in the rear of the house with her throat slashed on the right side and apparently dead. Officers rushed the woman to Grady and began an investigation.

On information furnished them by Mrs. Annie Stallings, of 185 Little street, SE, officers said they learned that a man had run from the scene. They went to 220 Love street ,they said where they found Brice in the house of his sister, Mrs. Maude Wyche of the Love street address. Officers said that Brice was identified by Mrs. Stallings as being the one who ran from the death scene, and readily he admitted the fatal cutting and turned in the death knife to officers. Brice stated that his wife sold non-tax paid liquor and that he had been trying to get her to stop. He said he went home shortly before the killing and saw a man inside the house with his wife. He tried to gain entrance, he said, but his wife steadfastly refused to let him in. He stated that he then kicked open the door and after and exchange of words he cut his wife.

8-8-44

Police said that a small quantity of non-tax paid liquor was found in the house. Brice is held in police headquarters on charges of suspicion of murder, police added.

# Herman Henry, Prominent Negro, is Killed

Examiner—Aberdeen, Miss.
6-15-44

Monroe county lost one of its most prominent colored citizens last Wednesday, when Herman Henry was killed by Emmett Cribbs, another colored man. Herman Henry was a most successful farmer, and a leader of his race. His farm produced nearly a hundred bales of cotton last year, and he produced the first bale of the season brought to Aberdeen, upon more than one occasion. The shooting is said to have occurred near Herman Henry's home, at his mailbox, as he went out for the mail. He evidently was not expecting trouble, as he spoke to the Cribbs negro, who was seated in a truck nearby, according to our information. The Cribbs negro is said to have replied with a brust from a shotgun, which struck Henry somewhere about the shoulder, and he fell. The Cribbs negro is said to have then fired again while he was down, inflicting a mortal wound. The Cribbs negro was taken some hours later, with the shotgun still in his possession. We are told that he acted craby, as if he had hallucinations, thinking someone was blocking his way, as he attempted to go to town. The Cribbs negro bore a good reputation, but had been sick for some time. Various reasons are given for the tragedy. The men had previously been good friends and neighbors, but there was a sale of land, and other transactions between the two, and there must have been some real or fancied injury. The funeral occurred last Sunday afternoon, and was largely attended. Herman Henry was prominent in the negro Masonic and in the church, and he probably amassed a fortune, largely by his own efforts. Opinion among both whites and blacks is sharply divided, and the preliminary trial before Judge Moon today, Wednesday, will doubtless throw new light on the tragedy. 6-15-44

## Bulk Of Homicides Attributed To Negroes

5-25-44
Montgomery, Ala, Advertiser

Although in this State white people outnumber negroes almost two to one, considerably more than twice as many negroes were victims of homicides in Alabama last year as were white people, the State Department of Health revealed Wednesday.

Of a total of 308 homicides for both races, or an average of approximately one every 28 hours, only 91 occurred among white people and 217 among negroes. The white homicide rate was only 4.7 per 100,000 population, as compared with a negro rate of 21.2 per 100,000 population.

The State Health Department announcement pointed out that negroes constitute about 36 per cent of the State's total population. All figures were based upon provisional vital statistics reports.

# Negro "Posse" Kills Race Man Who Shoots His Wife

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
8-15-44

MEMPHIS, Tenn—(SNS)—A tense drama of a man-hunt staged by a group of Negro citizens in pursuit of another Negro who had shot his wife and sreriously injured her, and of the hunted man being cornered and shot to death by his pursuers, was enacted last week in the vicinity of Peeples Avenue and Grant's Corner, just outside the city limits.

The dead man was John Myers, 53, 140 Bean's Alley, an employe of the Frisco Railroad. He was killed last Monday by a self-appointed "posse" of men who lived in the vicinity of the house where he (Myers) shot his estranged wife, Mrs. Fredonia Myers, 42.

Myers was killed by a shot from a 32-20 rifle fired by Roy Noel, 33, who lives in the vicinity of Horn Lake Road and Brooks Avenue where the tragedy occurred.

Sheriff's office reports submitted by deputies Smith and Banks gave the story behind the situation.

They were called to the scene to arrest a man who had shot his wife. When they arrived at the house near the Grant's Corner intersection, they found the ground and weeds in the rear of the house stained with blood.

8-15-44

Shortly, they met Frank Perkins who told them that he and several other men were holding a man who had shot his wife. They told the deputies to Myers who was lying wounded on the ground. He had been shot with a rifle. He was wounded in the leg just above the knee. He had been bleeding profusely which accounted for the blood-stained weeds near the weeds near the house. This bleeding evidently caused his death. He was dead upon arrival at John Gaston Hospital.

Perkins, serving as spokesman for the group, told the deputies that he and several other men among them Huise Hubbard, Richard Buford, Roy Noel, had encountered Myers just after he shot his wife. Myers told them not to follow him. His right arm was covered with a coat and it seemed that he had a gun beneath the coat. He pointed the coat-covered arm at the men as he ordered them not to follow him.

However, Perkins and the others got in his (Perkins') truck and followed Myers at a distance. Later, Perkins stopped at his home and obtained his rifle. The men also called deputies. He handed the gun to Noel. They picked up Myers's trail again and just as he was about to enter some woods near where they found him, he told them again to stop following at him and made a threatening move. It was then that Noel shot Myers in the leg.

Upon the questioning of the deputies, Myers stated that his wife had left him early this past June to go and live with another man, John Dabner, an employe of Walsh Lumber Company. He said his wife took all of his money, furniture, and other possessions when she left. On Sunday, July 30, Myers said he went to where his wife was staying and peeped through a window. There he saw her and Dabner using his furniture, and this made him angry. After a night of brooding over the matter, he got his gun and went to the house. Dabner was at work. Myers said that he tried to talk with his wife but she refused to have anything to say. That is when he shot her. (The woman was in such serious condition that deputies were unable to get a statement from her about what happened.)

8-15-44

Myers was trying to escape from the scene where he shot his wife when the other men who had witnessed the shooting began trailing him. Noel was arrested, but upon being questioned by attorneys, was released without charge.

One spokesman for the Negro "posse" stated that the manner in which Myers shot his wife, and the fact that so many brazen assaults have occurred in their community—a community patrolled by deputies from the sheriff's office—that they felt they were performing a civic duty to apprehend the gun-wielder and hold him for arrest. When he resisted and threatened them, they felt justified in shooting him to stop him.

# PURSUES, SLAYS MAID IN GLENCOE

Tribune—Chicago, Ill.
8-21-44

Miss Caroline Hamilton, 47, Negro maid employed in the home of Mrs. Gordon L. Pirie, 411 Lakeside ter., Glencoe, was fatally stabbed yesterday by James M. Allen, Mrs. Pirie's Negro houseman, in the home of John J. Yowell, 51 Beach rd., Glencoe, where Miss Hamilton had fled for protection.

Yowell, a member of the law firm of Hummer, Van Ness & Yowell, 69 W. Washington st., was napping in a balcony bedroom in the front of the house and his wife, Mrs. Helen Yowell, was in the kitchen when Miss Hamilton opened the front door and ran into the house, screaming, with Allen in pursuit.

**Trapped on Balcony Stairs.**

She ran up a short flight of stairs to the balcony. Allen caught her at the top and stabbed her repeatedly with a pocket knife. 8-21-44

Yowell, awakened by the commotion, came to the bedroom doorway and ordered Allen to leave. Then he turned back to the bedroom and began loading a revolver.

Mrs. Yowell, running in from the kitchen, saw Allen attacking Miss Hamilton and ran back to a room off the kitchen for a shotgun belonging to her son, Kent, 17.

Running back to the front of the house, she threatened Allen with the shotgun, which was not loaded. As Yowell appeared in the bedroom doorway with a loaded revolver, Policeman Alex Chacharon came in the front door and seized Allen.

**Quarrel Over Another Man.**

Allen told police he and Miss Hamilton quarreled because she told him she intended to visit a boy friend on the south side. He stopped the car and began beating her in the 800 block on Sheridan rd. Bystanders called police. Chacharon arrived just in time to see Allen entering the Yowell home.

Sept. 8, 1944

Police officers, who investigated that Wright knew after she where she kept the key to her unnamed house. She said that on arriving the rooms home she made an attempt to arrived gain entrance, and finding that she rested at could not she proceeded to kick

Helen Whitlow, 18, of 325 Old Wheat street, NE, surrendering the pistol, admission is the home of a sister at 222 Box alley, NE, who and admitting the shooting. fired one

38

William Wright, 20, of 224 Box alley, NE, who was shot with a .32 caliber revolver, Wednesday night at 325 Old Wheat street, NE, is reported to have died in Grady hospital Thursday morning. Officers said that there have been 17 white killings this year.

Held on charges of suspicion of murder when she arrested

Atlanta police wrote Negro homicide No. 38, the second in two days, into their records Thursday

## Police Report 38th Slaying

Atlanta, Georgia
Sept. 7, 1944

the door open, and when she did Wright advanced on her, and she fired ,the bullet striking the victim in the chest to which wound he succumbed shortly after arrival at Grady.

Officers Preston and Newton made the investigation, and stated that they were makng an effort to gain additional information in the killing so that a complete report can be made. They said that they found difficulty in finding any witnesses to the tragedy.

# 37th Slaying Is Chalked Up With Death Of Victim

World—Memphis, 9-12-44 Tenn.

ATLANTA, Ga.—(SNS)—Atlanta's thirty-seventh Negro homicide of the year, compared with 17 white killings for the same period, was written into police records Wednesday, with the death at Grady hospital Tuesday night of Lee Flagg, 29, of 73 Kenyon street, SE, who succumbed to pistol wounds inflicted Saturday morning. At the time of the shooting police officers stated that Flagg was found beside a house at 87 Chester street, SE, suffering from a bullet wound which went through his arm and penetrated to his spine.

37

Arrested Saturday later and held as a material witness in connection with the shooting was Oscar Hutchinson, alias "Highpockets," 52, of 80 Chester street, SE, who is said to have been seen by several witnesses leaving the scene of the shooting with the suspect, Robert Zimmons, who is said to have been living at an address in Renfroe alley, and who is still at large. 9-12-44

Officers said that they were informed by several witnesses that on hearing the shot they heard a man scream shortly afterwards for help, and that on rushing to their doors the witnesses stated that they saw Hutchinson and Zimmons fleeing the scene. Police stated that they took Flagg to Grady, where he was reported in a serious condition.

# Negro "Posse" Kills Race Man, Who Shoots His Wife

World - Memphis, Tenn. 8-8-44

A tense drama of a man-hunt staged by a group of Negro citizens in pursuit of another Negro who had shot his wife and sreriously injured her, and of the hunted man being cornered and shot to death by his pursuers was enacted last week in the vicinity of Peeples Avenue and Grant's Corner, just outside the city limits.

The dead man was John Myers 53, 140 Bean's Alley, an employe of the Frisco Railroad. He was killed last Monday by a self-appointed "posse" of men who lived in the vicinity of the house where he (Myers) shot his estranged wife, Mrs. Fredohia Myers, 42.

Myers was killed by a shot from a 32-20 rifle fired by Roy Noel, 33, who lives in the vicinity of Horn Lake Road and Brooks Avenue where the tragedy occurred.

Sheriff's office reports submitted by deputies Smith and Banks gave the story behind the situation. 8-8-44

They were called to the scene to arrest a man who had shot his wife. When they arrived at the house near the Grant's Corner intersection, they found the ground and weeds in the rear of the house stained with blood.

Shortly, they met Frank Perkins who told them that he and several other men were holding a man who had shot his wife.They told the deputies to Myers who was lying wounded on the ground. He had been shot with a rifle. He was wounded in the leg just above the knee. He had been bleeding profusely which accounted for the blood-stained weeds near the weeds near the house. This bleed- evidently caused his death. He was dead upon arrival at John Gaston Hospital. 8-8-44

Perkins, serving as spokesman for the group, told the deputies that he and several other men among them Huise Hubbard, Richard Buford, Roy Noel, had encountered Myers just after he shot his wife. Myers told them not to follow him. His right arm was covered with a coat and it seemed that he had a gun beneath the coat. He pointed the coat-covered arm at the men as he ordered them not to follow him.

However, Perkins and the others got in his (Perkins') truck and followed Myers at a distance. Later, Perkins stopped at his home and obtained his rifle. The men also called deputies. He handed the gun to Noel. They picked up Myers's trail again and just as he was about to enter some woods near where they found him, he told them again to stop following him and made a threatening move. It was then that Noel shot Myers in the leg. 8-19-44

Upon the questioning of the deputies, Myers stated that his wife had left him early this past June to go and live with another man, John Dabner, an employe of Walsh Lumber Company. He said his wife took all of his money, furniture, and other possessions when she left. On Sunday, July 30, Myers said he went to where his wife was staying and peeped through a window. There he saw her and Dabner using his furniture, and this made him angry. After a night of brooding over the matter, he got his gun and went to the house. Dabner was at work. Myers said that he tried to talk with his wife but she refused to have anything to say. That is when he shot her. (The woman was in such serious condition that deputies were unable to get a statement from her about what happened.) 8-19-44

Myers was trying to escape from the scene where he shot his wife when the other men who had witnessed the shooting began trailing him. Noel was arrested, but upon being questioned by attorneys, was released without charge.

One spokesman for the Negro "posse" stated that the manner in which Myers shot his wife, and the fact that so many brazen assaults have occurred in their community—a community patrolled by deputies from the sheriff's office—that they felt they were performing a civic duty to apprehend the gun-wielder and hold him for arrest. When he resisted and threatened them, they felt justified in shooting him to stop him.

Noel is understood to have expressed regret that due to the length of time it took to get Myers to a hospital, he bled to death from the rifle wound.

# Hutchinson Woman Killed

Call—Kansas City, Mo.

## Retha Moore Shot By Alma Sterman

4-14-44

HUTCHINSON, Kas. — Alma Sterman, alias Bessie Miller, 33, 517 South Madison, is being held by police and county officials in connection with the fatal shooting Saturday, April 8 about 8:40 p. m. of Retha Moore, 32, who resides at the same address.

When questioned shortly before midnight, the Sterman woman admitted shooting her housemate when the other woman allegedly threatened her with a knife.

The shooting victim was pronounced dead by Reno County Coroner H. M. Stewart, who stated that a bullet wound in the chest near the heart caused death.

Miss Sterman was questioned by County Attorney Harry Dunn, Assistant Attorney Fred Preble and Capt. John Robinson of the police department. She said she and Miss Moore were drinking in a cafe on South Main earlier in the evening and the latter had become quarrelsome. Miss Sterman then stated that she went home and soon Miss Moore arrived. After each had prepared for bed Miss Sterman said that Miss Moore called to her and she went into the room. 4-14-44

"She began to get nasty with me and had a knife in her hand," Miss Sterman said. As I was just ready to get into bed—and I always take my gun with me—she came after me. I backed into the doorway of the room and shot. Then I got excited and don't know what I did. I knew she was hurt so called the ambulance and then pretty soon policemen came and took me to the station."

Police were notified by Johnson and Sons funeral home that they had received an ambulance call and officers arrived shortly afterward. 4-14-44

Officers found a .32 caliber pistol on a dresser in the house. The chamber of the gun contained two shells, one of which was discharged. Preliminary search of the residence disclosed no trace of

# Civil Action Suit 'Kicked Out' of Court

Amsterdam News New York N.Y.

## Attempt to Collect for June '43 Riot Damages Meets Defeat in Newark

3-18-44

NEWARK—Civil action to compel the City of Newark to pay damages of $10,000 to the family of 15-year-old Milton Heiley of 302 New Street who was killed in a street riot here last June, was dismissed last Tuesday by Common Pleas Judge Hartshorne.

Two suits, citing a statute making a municipality liable for personal injury or death due to mob violence, were instituted in behalf of Heiley and Loyne Lyons, 15, of 8 Oriental Street, who was seriously injured when a gang of white youths attacked them at Summit Place and Colden Street.

Raffaele Ungaro, 18, of 178 Bloomfield Avenue, and Vincent Potito, 16, of 628 Third Street, both white, recently pleaded non vult to the slaying and assault and were given prison sentences. Several other white youths, entering similar pleas to having participated in the attacks, which spread terror among Negro residents of the heavily-populated Italian neighborhood for two days, were placed on probation.

**Judge Hartshorne Said**

Judge Hartshorne dismissed the actions in granting a motion originally made by Assistant Corporation Council Fast when the cases were first presented last October. The jurist stated in his decision that the intent of the law was to impose penalty "on a municipality in cases where its law enforcement has become so inefficient that the populance, or a portion, have felt compelled rightly or wrongly to take the law into its own hands for purposes of maintaining law and order."

The Heiley boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Birls Heiley of the New Street address, died at City Hospital five hours after the gang of white youths attacked him and Lyons while they were on their way home from a job they held after school hours. They were unaware of the attacks being made by whites on Negroes in the neighborhood as a result of resentment over the victory of a Negro boy in an interracial track meet a few days previous. 3-18-44

**The Attack Reviewed**

Accosted at the corner of Summit Place and Colden Street, the boys received several blows from the hands of their white assailants before deciding to run in an effort to escape further punishment. Four shots were fired at them as they ran eastward on Summit Place, one of which landed in young Heiley's back. The wounded youth was found shortly after the attack lying in a vacant lot on Sayre Street.

Lyons was severely injured in the fracas, but succeeded in escaping the fate of his companion by running into the house of a Negro family on Colden Street, where the gang of white youths lost track of him.—J.

# 'St. Louis' Kelley Slain in Chicago

Call—Kansas City, Mo. 4-14-44

CHICAGO. (ANP) — Bullets ended the career of J. Livert (St. Louis) Kelly, the South Side's most powerful labor leader, here Friday night when he was shot twice through the head by Wendell (Cateyes) Lyons, bodyguard and brother-in-law of former Ald. Benjamin F. Grant, Third ward, during a political rally staged in Grant's behalf for third ward committeeman against County Commissioner Edward "Mike" Sneed, present ward committeeman.

A rabid supporter of Sneed, Kelly was charged with tearing down Grant's political posters by Lyons earlier in the night when Lyons visited police headquarters. Kelly, known as "St. Louis" Kelly, was informed of the charge and is said to have gone to Grant's meeting to deny the accusation. Known as fearless, he is reported to have engaged in an argument with both Grant and Lyons. 4-14-44

When Grant went back to conduct the meeting after the argument in the hall of Forrestville school, another argument broke out between him and Lyons that resulted in a struggle that ended in the school yard where Kelly was shot twice in the head. "I shot Kelly before he could get me," Lyons told police.

33a-1944

# Tells Wife, Tots Goodbye, Never Returns Home Alive

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
10-7-44

BALTIMORE—When Solom P. Smith, 41, of 1306 N. Bruce Street, said goodbye to his wife, Phonenia, and their three small children as he departed for the Regent Theatre Monday, little did she dream she'd never see him alive again.

That night he was shot fatally by a white man at 1618 Eutaw Place, who contends that Mr. Smith attempted to climb into the third-floor bedroom of two white girls at the Eutaw Street address. The white man, Claude Sipe, 35, was released on bail for a further hearing October 27 at Northwestern police station.

Mrs. Smith said her husband, an employee at the Walker-Hasslinger Restourant of 1701 Charles Street, which is closed on Monday, slept late on that fatal day.

Around 3 p.m., she sent him to Montgomery Ward's to get some stove gratings, she said, and upon his return, they had dinner, after which he left for the movies.

**Cops, Midnight Callers**

At midnight police came to her door, saying her husband had been shot, she reported, and after she left Northwestern police station, she noticed his Ford automobile parked near the Regent Theatre.

Later that night, a representative from the Jenkins funeral home came to her home, she said, and she learned her husband was dead. Mr. Smith was a native Baltimorean and had lived here all of his life. 10-7-44

Their three children range in age from 4 to 7, and Naomi, 6, and Ruth, 7, are in the first grade at School No. 132, Mrs. Smith stated.

Funeral services for the husband were held Friday at his home. Other immediate survivors include two brothers, Augustus and Henry Smith. Interment was in Mt. Calvart Cemetery.

# Manslaughter Term Of 5-10 Years Is Meted Artis Lewis

Daily World—Atlanta Ga
11-16-44

Artis Lewis, who was tried in the Fulton Superior Court Monday and Tuesday for the Sunday morning September 17, slaying of a neighbor, Aaron Coleman, at the latter's home, 155 Davis Davis St. N.W. was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter by a 12-man all-white jury, late Tuesday evening, after a lengthy deliberation, and punishment was set at from five to ten years.

Imposing sentence immediately after the verdict had been read was Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy, who had presided during the entire trial. Prosecuting was Assistant Solicitor Rubin Garland and Attorney A. T. Walden Counsel for the defense was Noah Stone.

Lewis was charged with knocking Coleman from a porch railing at the Davis street home after he had accused the dead man of interfering into a domestic matter concerning him and his wife. The state placed more than a dozen witnesses on the stand, most of these eye witnesses, all who claimed that Lewis struck Coleman from the porch to the ground where his head struck a rock wall nearby inflicting wounds to Coleman's head which caused his death early the next day in Grady hospital.

Counsel for the defense placed a large number of witnesses also on the stand in behalf of the defendant, whose plea was self-defense.

# Union Dispute Ends in Bloodshed

Afro-American Balt, Md.

ARTHEL SHELTON HENRY JOHNSON

**Shelton, organizer for District 50 of the United Mine Workers, is in jail on an open charge pending results of the injuries of two of three men, allegedly shot by him during a trial hearing at the Chicago offices of District 50 last week. Johnson, one of the men shot, is shown as he lay on the floor of the office just before he died. Also shot were Edward Heckelbech, white, regional director, and Frank Alsup, who was attending the trial as an observer. The hearing was on charges of malfeasance, waste of union funds and refusal to co-operate with organizers which had been brought by Shelton against Heckelbech and Johnson, a special representative of the union.**

33a-1944

## Growing Steadily Worse

Despite the protestations of our social and civic leaders against the cheapness with which life among Atlanta Negroes is held, the rising tide of homicides goes merrily on. Daily World-Atlanta, Ga. 2-8-44

With nearly a full 11-month stretch yet to go before the curtain closes on 1944, the present speed with which the lives of Atlanta Negroes are being snuffed out by each other, bids fair to eclipse that of last year's total. Thus, instead of getting better, indications point definitely to the fact that conditions are growing more vicious.

Of the four homicides listed at the Atlanta Homicide Bureau for the year, three of these killings were charged to Negroes, while a fourth was that of a Negro shot to death by an Atlanta police officer. 2-8-44

Viewing the situation from any conceivable angle, the reckless disregard for the sacredness of human life among us, unless checked by prompt action and stern measures, will endanger the lives and limbs of all of us.

# 'N....r Case' Assertions May Be Discarded

(By SPIKE WASHINGTON)

That old time-worn phrase which comes up in court every time there is an all-Negro case may soon be discarded.

This is it;

"This is just another of those n...r cases, Your Honor."

The reason it may be outlawed is because of a significant statement made in Superior Court Thursday morning during the hearing of a case involving two Negro women.

It was made by Assistant Solicitor J. R. Parham, during the trial of one woman charged wtih shooting another woman about the former's common-law husband, whom she had been living with for 14 years. 2-18-44

Counsel for the woman charged in the shooting after presenting his side of the argument and placing several witnesses on the stand to testify on behalf of his client, began his speech.

This was its beginning:

"Your Honor, this is just another one of those n . . . . r cases which occur every day over in n . . . . r town, with no serious complications, and . . ."

But that was as far as he got.

**PARHAM INTERRUPTS**

Interrupting was Mr. Parham, who was angered by the statement in the case of one person making an attempt to take the life of another with a deadly weapon.

"Your Honor, that old statement is overworked in this court about just another n . . . . r case and I am requesting here and now that the court order counsel to refrain from using it," the Assistant Solicitor stated.

He stated further "the life of a Negro is just as sweet to him or her as the life of white men or women, and I don't feel that so many killers and would-be-killers among Negroes should be let off with that old worn out phrase of 'this is just another n . . . . r killing, brawl, or assault.'"

Probably most Atlantans will agree with Mr. Parham, whose duty it is to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law, and after doing so lenient juries send dangerous criminals, some with long records, back into society where they can continue to maim and kill. He is correct. 2-18-44

Commendation to this public servant who is doing his duty in prosecuting those persons who cut, shoot, steal, rob, and kill.

# Two Girls, 12, Stab Another, 9, To Death

Daily World Atlanta, Ga 5-10-44

NEW YORK — (S N S) — Both wearing masks, two 12-year-old school girls fatally stabbed Margaret Patton, 9 years-old before a crowd of excited onlookers in a prep school recreation room. Police said that the girls who did the stabbing said that the victim had "tattled on them."

While one of the assailants held the girl who was killed by the arm, it was said that the other girl plunged a long, thin-bladed letter-cutter into her chest. They fled as other pupils and teachers stood too shocked momentarily to move.

Police officers arrested Madeline Kirkland on a charge of homicide and Eileen Foster on a charge of delinquency shortly afterwards.

One police officer on the docket stated that both girls admitted killing the smaller girl because she told her school teacher they had stolen report cards and other materials. They told police that the latter, the Foster girl, held Margaret while Madeline stabbed her fatally.

# MASKED NEGRO SCHOOL GIRLS SLAY 'TATTLER'

Tribune-Chicago, Ill. 5-10-44

## Pupil Knifed After She Tells of a Theft.

New York, May 9 (AP).—Two 12 year old Negro girls, after overhearing a schoolmate report that they had stolen school supplies, fatally stabbed Margaret Patton, 9, also a Negro in the recreation room of a Harlem public school today, police said.

Wearing hallowe'en masks and armed with a potato knife and a letter opener, the two girls walked into the large room shortly before noon, police reported, and in full sight of two teachers and other pupils, one of the girls held Margaret as the other plunged the long bladed letter cutter into the child's chest.

As teachers and students stood frozen with horror, the two girls fled.

**Evidence in Bonfire.**

They were found by police a few minutes later in a nearby backyard, hovering over a small bonfire from which police said they recovered a mask, the two knives and a batch of report cards and other school papers. 5-10-44

The two girls, identified as Eileen Foster and Madeline Kirkland, admitted the attack, Police Lt. James Weldon said. Eileen was arrested on a juvenile delinquent charge and Madeline on a homicide charge. Weldon said Madeline told him she stabbed Margaret as Eileen held her. The girls protested that "she tattled on us."

Weldon said the girls arrived at school late this morning, and finding their classmates had gone to Central park, removed some school supplies and took them to Eileen's apartment.

**Overhear Girl's Story.**

When they returned to school, he said, they overheard Margaret report their act to a teacher, went back to the Foster girl's home, took the knives and masks, and returned to the school.

Madeline told him, Weldon said, "I stabbed her over the heart once but Eileen held her and made me do it." 5-10-44

Police found Margaret lying in a pool of blood near the gymnasium entrance. Hysterical pupils, many of whom had witnessed the attack, were screaming and teachers were attempting to keep order.

# Girl in School Killing Gets Hearing May 17

World-Telegram-New York, N.Y. 5-10-44

Four detectives stood near by and eight unsmiling eyes watched while the young Negro mother changed the socks of her 11-year-old daughter. The child, charged with homicide in the stabbing to death yesterday of a 9-year-old Negro girl in P. S. 119, was preparing to appear in Homicide Court.

As she waited in a clerk's office, her mother, 26, wept and talked about her daughter. She is separated from her husband and works as a mica splitter in a Brooklyn war plant to support the girl.

The child, tall for her age—about 5 feet 6 inches—sat quietly, reading a newspaper.

**Her Room Always Neat.**

Tears rolled from both mother's and daughter's eyes as words of the past were spoken. "She likes to cook and is a good one," the young mother said in her soft voice. "Her room is always neat. And her dog, Butch, cried all night when she didn't come home."

The youngster's damp eyes brightened at mention of her pet. "How is Butch, mother?" she asked. Her mother smiled slightly and continued: 5-10-44

"I have denied myself everything to care for her. She has been forbidden to go with strange girls and I have warned her she would lose special privileges if she didn't get good school marks. I work nights so that I can be with her during the day."

**Hearing Continued.**

Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney hearing that the girl was charged with stabbing to death a schoolmate, 9-year-old Margaret Patton, of 55 W. 137th St., continued the hearing to May 17. The child accused as a murderer was taken to the Women's House of Detention.

Assistant District Attorney John F. Loehr said, "I understand there are suitable quarters there for this girl." 5-10-44

Magistrate Mahoney looked up. "Isn't it too late to talk suitable quarters," he declared, "when playgrounds and swings do not do any good? Perhaps the people interested in juvenile delinquency would do better to teach children the moral value of life—the right and wrong. They can't learn that playing games or sliding down slides or swinging in the playgrounds."

# Two Masked Pupils Slay Girl, 9, Amid Playmates in City School

Times-New York, N.Y. 5-10-44

In the presence of five teachers and 150 pupils in the ground floor gymnasium of Public School 119, at 257 West 133d Street, a 9-year-old girl was fatally stabbed yesterday by one of two masked girl students of the same school because she had told a teacher that the two had stolen school property.

The two girls were captured by the police twenty minutes later as they fed a fire they had built in an areaway with school records, two knives and the masks. They were taken to the West 135th Street station in Harlem, where they admitted to Assistant District Attorney Carl Grebow that they had killed the girl.

The dead girl, Margaret Patton, of 55 West 137th Street, was stabbed in the chest with a sharp, two-edged combination pencil sharpener and ink eraser with a two-inch blade. She died in an ambulance on the way to Harlem Hospital.

The two girls, who were known to the Children's Shelter in Brooklyn, told the Assistant District Attorney that they had gone to Central park yesterday, picked up a batch of report cards, sent to the Children's Shelter in Brooklyn. 5-10-44

The two girls, who had received for department. They who were known to the Assistant District Attorney that they had gone to Central park yesterday. They took the loot to the Foster girl's home, where they found their report cards were not among the ones they had taken.

Post-Birm., Ala.

**NEGRO KILLER GETS LIFE**

HUNTSVILLE, May 23.—(Special)—Walter Moore, Negro farmer, pleaded guilty to a charge of murder in connection with the slaying of a Negro woman named Harris, whose body was found in an abandoned well several weeks ago. He was sentenced by Judge S. H. Richardson to a life term in the penitentiary. 5-23-44

# Child Slayers Slated for Institution

PM-New York, N.Y.
5-10-44

## Both Come From 'Broken Homes' in Harlem

5-11-44

By Tom O'Connor

Madeline Kirkland, the gangling 11-year-old girl who plunged a paper knife into the heart of a schoolmate who "told teacher," will come before a magistrate May 17 for a hearing on the charge of homicide which the District Attorney's office has lodged against her.

The case was postponed for a week by Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney yesterday. Madeline will spend the intervening time in the Women's House of Detention. Her 13-year-old friend, Eileen Foster, who participated in the killing, has been charged with juvenile delinquency and is at the Brooklyn's Children's Shelter.

It is almost a certainty that both children eventually will be sent to some sort of institution, where they will have a certain amount of psychiatric study and care, and an effort will be made to prepare them for useful adulthood.

### Too Late

And a lot of people are saying that this should have been done *before* Margaret Patton, 9, was stabbed to death in the inner yard of P. S. 119 in Harlem. The killing would not have occurred, they argue, if there had not been something radically wrong in the two kids' personality makeup, or their home life, or their handling in public school. And whatever was wrong should have been spotted and steps taken to correct it, else some tragedy was bound to occur.

That theory sounds swell—but it appears to be a good deal oversimplified. It happens that in this particular case a "something wrong" *had* been spotted, and certain steps *had* been taken to try to correct it. And they had seemed to be working.

Both of the children were from the kind of "broken home" so familiar in Harlem—especially familiar there because of a whole series of economic and social factors affecting every phase of Negro life.

Both of them were somewhat under normal intelligence, as shown by IQ ratings, although Madeline was reading a little better than the average for her school grade and had made fairly good marks in all her studies but arithmetic and geography. 5-11-44

### Dirty Apartment

Eileen Foster lived with her mother in a drab, dingy and dirty first-floor apartment near the school, at 237 West 133d St. Mrs. Foster was not home when I went there. Two men were in the kitchen drinking port wine out of glasses which looked as though they were never washed. One of the men said he was Mrs. Foster's "uncle." They were willing to share their wine but not to talk. I could get nothing out of them about the girl's father, except that he "didn't live there."

Mrs. Kirkland's apartment, up four flights in a fairly well-kept building at 550 W. 146th St., was a considerable contrast. It was clean and sunny and by no means gave an impression of abject poverty.

Mrs. Kirkland herself, young and neatly dressed, didn't want to talk or pose for pictures. She evidenced considerable distrust of white people, and it was only because a reporter from one of the Negro papers was with us that she finally asked us to come in and told us a little about Madeline.

"She was almost 12 but she had the mind of a girl of 6," Mrs. Kirkland said. "She never gave you any trouble but if you bothered her she had an awful bad temper."

"We had a fire in the apartment where we were living out in The Bronx last March, and I think maybe it shocked her mind. A lot of people have told me that must have happened.

"She got her temper from her father. He always had that temper.

"When we got married I was just 15 and he was only a boy. He caused me not to finish school, and then after the baby came he left me. I don't know where he is now or what he's doing. But I remember how he had that temper."

Mrs. Kirkland gave her own age "as 26 or 27." She said she had not been divorced but had a steady "gentleman friend." She had been working as a mica-splitter in a defense factory on Varick St., but had quit three weeks ago because the mica was too hard on her eyes. She was to have started in a new job today. 5-11-44

Over at PS 119 the authorities knew both Mrs. Kirkland and Mrs. Foster and had talked to both of them about their children. Mrs. Kirkland, they agreed, was really interested in Madeline, although they felt she had tended unreasonably to blame the child whenever she got into difficulties; or, alternately, unreasonably to blame mothers," said one person at the school, familiar with both children and both mothers, whose name I promised not to use. "Mrs. Foster would come around here with so much liquor on her breath we'd have to air the place out. Up until recently, Eileen came to school like a ragamuffin, the shabbiest girl in school. Madeline was neat and clean, but we knew her home environment was not what it ought to be.

Policemen who talked to the two girls said it was Madeline who was the most unhappy in her home, although from surface indications one would expect it to be the other way around.

Officers quoted Madeline as proposing the stabbing of the Patton girl, and Eileen—who was obviously the weaker of the two personalities, although older—as opposing it, each looking upon it not only as a means of "getting even" with a girl who tattled on them but also a means of getting sent away from home.

According to the police version, Madeline said to Eileen:

"Let's go back and kill someone so we'll be sent to a home. I don't get along very well with my parents and I want to go to an institution."

Eileen replied:

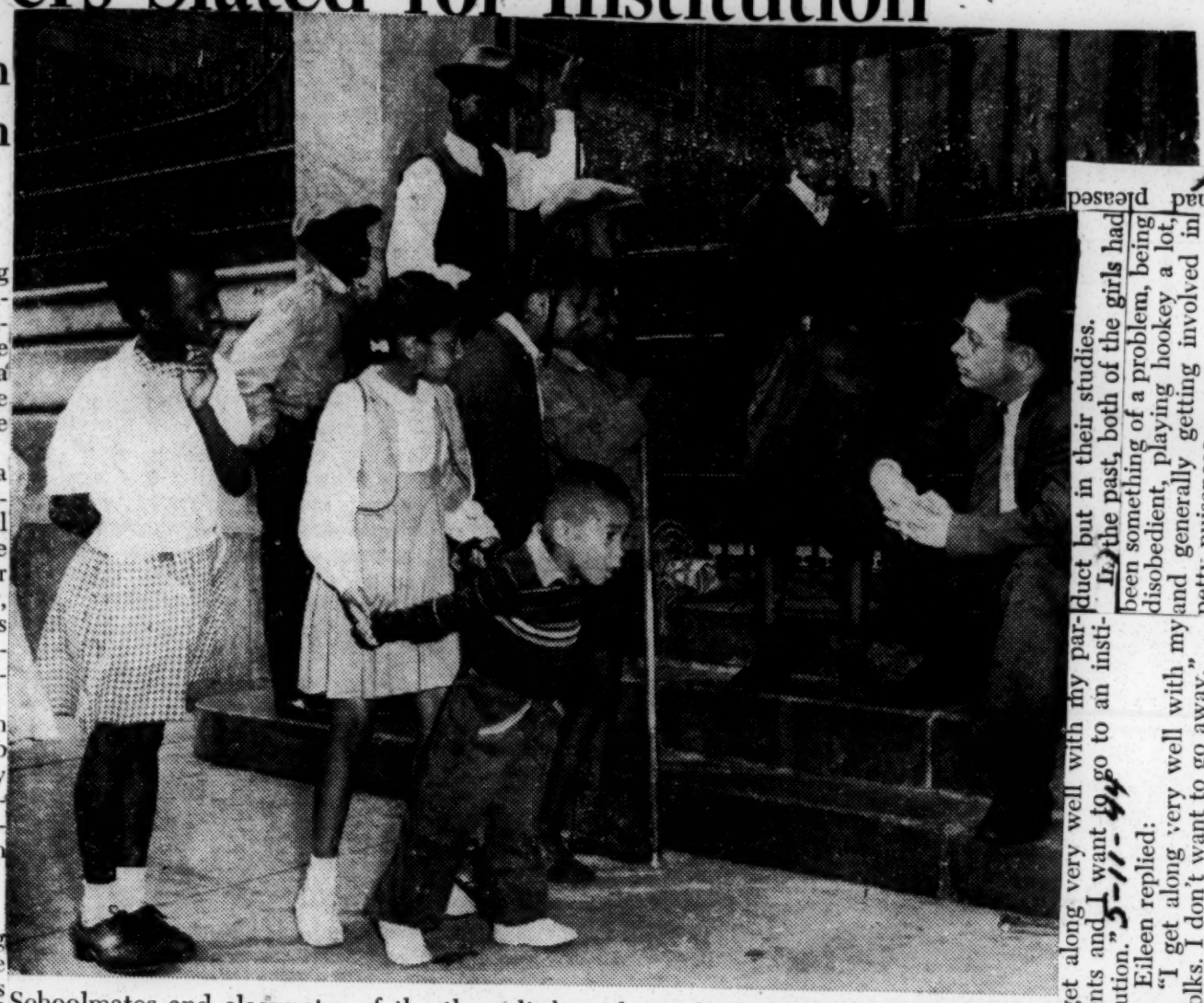
"I get along very well with my folks. I don't want to go away."

Miss Fanny Cohen, principal of the school, showed me the newest report cards of the two girls—cards they unsuccessfully tried to steal to "find out whether they got A in deportment."

They didn't have As. But they are fewer students and more chance had Bs, and in each case their supervision and work with the kids teacher had noted a marked improvement, not only in their conduct but in their studies.

In the past, both of the girls had been something of a problem, being disobedient, playing hookey a lot, and generally getting involved in petty nuisances.

That they *were* a problem, needing special attention, had been recognized by school authorities. They had both been put in an "opportunity" class, in which there are fewer students and more chance for the teacher to exercise close supervision and work with the kids as individuals. And the progress both were making had pleased everyone. 5-11-44



Schoolmates and classmates of the three little girls involved in Harlem's most recent tragedy, the fatal stabbing of Margaret Patton, 9, eagerly tell PM's reporter all kinds of inaccurate stories of what happened. They agreed on one thing: The girls involved seemed "just like everybody else, and mostly did what teacher told them."

*Photo by John Albert, PM*

The girls walked back to the school in time, they said, to overhear the Patton girl tell a teacher that the older girls had taken the school records. They quickly retraced their steps to the Foster girl's home. 5-10-44

Both girls were angry because the Patton child had "squealed" on them. The Kirkland girl turned to her companion and said: "Let's go back and kill someone so we'll be sent to a home. I don't get along very well with my parents and I want to go to an institution."

The Foster girl said. "I get along very well with my folks. I don't want to go away."

The Kirkland girl was more persuasive. She took the stolen knife and told her companion to arm herself with a potato knife. They decided to wear black masks they had got last Halloween to cover the upper part of their faces. They walked back to school.

**Assemble for a Recess**

Meanwhile five 3B classes and their teachers gathered in the gymnasium for their 11 o'clock recess period. The Patton girl, a member of one class, was asked by her teacher to sit on a bench along the wall because she had a skin ailment. The rest of the children played games.

Both girls donned their masks as they entered the gymnasium. The tall, thin Kirkland girl, wearing black sweater and skirt, walked directly in front of the Patton girl. Her companion, a short, chunky girl, wearing a green sweater and skirt, stood alongside of the seated girl. She held the Patton girl's arm and, according to the Kirkland girl, "made we stab her with the knife."

As the girls ran out into 133d Street a teacher, who thought the oldre girls had slapped the Patton child, ran to the victim, who toppled at her feet. Another teacher saw the girls run into the Foster girl's house. The police were called and Sergeant Joseph Haeser of the West 135th Street station responded in a radio car.

The sergeant broke into the Foster home and found the girls had climbed through a rear window into the areaway and were throwing the evidence into a fire they had started. He quickly stamped out the fire and caught the two girls. 5-10-44

Mrs. Bertha Patton, mother of the slain girl, said later that her daughter had been friendly with the Foster girl until last October when her daughter told of the Foster girl taking $30 from her father.

School officials said the two girls had been a problem for several years. They had been involved in "petty nuisances." However, this term their conduct was described as "extraordinarily good."

33a-1944

# 20th Homicide Recorded For '44

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga., 5-30-44

One Atlantan is dead and 10 others all Negroes, are in hospitals suffering from wounds sustained by knives and gunfire during the weekend affrays in various sections of the city according to reports in police headquarters.

Officers said that five of those wounded were in a serious condition. They added that the major portion of the casualties resulted from arguments during gambling games of various descriptions.

Slain following an altercation during a "Georgia skin" gambling game was James S. Rowe, 25, of 551 Foundry Street, N. E., who was stabbed to death at a magnolia street address, arrested, charged with the fatal cutting is John H. Thomas, 48, of 148 Walnut St. NW.

Police reported that most of the alleged assailants involved in the several assaults had been apprehended and will have charges lodged against them following further investigations by them.

At present, they reported, that Thomas is being held on suspicion of murder charges pending an inquest into the affray which took the life of Rowe. 5-30-44

Officers said that this was the twentieth homicide of the year in which a Negro was slain.

# Death of a scared little girl

PM-New York, N.Y.
5-28-44

A LITTLE AFTER 11 O'CLOCK the morning of May 9, two girls wearing black masks entered the gymnasium of PS 119 in Harlem. One girl was 11, the other 13. Each carried a knife. They were looking for 9-year-old Margaret Patton. They wanted her because she had told on them last Fall when they swiped some school property.

Sad little Margaret was sitting alone on a bench when the girls entered. She had been told not to play games with the gym class because she had a skin ailment. How unhappy Margaret was at that moment we will never know, because the two older girls went up to her and stabbed her in the chest and she died in an ambulance on the way to Harlem hospital.

The juvenile assassins were caught by the police and taken to the 135th St. station.

*"While they were being questioned, the victim's mother, Mrs. Bertha Patton, in dejected bewilderment, stood outside the station, a little apart from a crowd of about 100 spectators who waited to look at the girls as they were being taken away."*

That italicized paragraph is quoted from Robert S. Bird's excellent story of the event that appeared in the *Herald Tribune* the next morning.

## 15,000 saw the body

The body of Margaret Patton was taken to Griffin's Funeral Home in Harlem and, in the next few days, some 15,000 persons went in to see the body. Two thousand squeezed into the Memorial Baptist Church for the funeral service and many more stood outside. The Rev. V. Willard did not preach a conventional sermon. He lit into barfly mothers who do not stay home enough. There was applause when someone announced a Harlem mass meeting to discuss juvenile delinquency.

Last week we went to see Margaret's mother, Bertha Patton, who lives with her two other children (Barbara, 12; William, 13) in a back-room flat in a gloomy tenement on 137th Street. Worn green linoleum covered the living room floor. An embroidered dresser scarf was draped over the low kerosene heating stove. Mrs. Patton sat in an armchair covered by a candlewick bedspread. She wore a black wrapper and held a skinny, spotted kitten in her arms. 5-28-44

"Seems like we can't any of us stay in this house since Margaret was killed," she said, stroking the kitten. "The children always help with the mopping up, but they's with their grandma today, and I don't stay in much neither.

"This is Margaret's pussy, Star-Eyes," she said without noticeable emotion. "Margaret brought it home in a paper bag when it was no more'n two days old. Raised it up on a bottle. She was always pickin' stray cats off the street." She paused, then said wonderingly, "I never did get used to that child. Maybe it wasn't in the cards for me to raise her up. She was different, some way.

"She was so quiet. Never cried. You knowed she was cryin' when she felt bad because you could see the tears comin' out of her eyes, but she never made a bawlin' noise like the other children. Even when she was first born an' the doctor spanked her, she didn't cry right. An' she was a scaredy little girl.

## 'She had a scairt look'

"Before my husband went away an' left us, she used to be scaredy when we had an argument. Or she was just scaredy walkin' down the street.

"I try not to think how scairt she was when those girls come up to her with masks on. I jus' know she was afraid. She had a scairt look on her face when I saw her in the hospital. She was dead. Her arm was up. Like this." Mrs. Patton slowly raised her arm and held it, as if warding off a blow.

We wanted to know if she had heard from the mothers of the two girls who killed Margaret. She shook her head.

"I seen the mother of one of them one time before this happened. I never did see the other one. I guess they must be pretty hurt themselves."

Then we asked what she thought of Mr. Willard's remarks at the funeral services

PHOTOS BY JEAN EVANS

Margaret Patton's mother (story above).

about bar-fly mothers.

"I don't rightly know what to say about that," she said. "Seems like there's a lot more to it than that. Most of the mothers I know don' spend so much time pleasurin' as workin' so they can feed their children.

"I stay home an' take care of mine. But we got to pay rent, an' clothes an' food, everything, on what the Welfare gives us, $96.50 a month for me an' the three of them. Sometimes I thought about goin' out to work myself. Seems like you can't stay home an' take care of them, an' give them what they need, both at the same time."

What, we asked, did she think could be done to keep things like this from happening again? 5-28-44

Mrs. Patton stopped stroking the kitten and leaned forward.

"I been tryin' to figure that out myself," she said confidentially. "Margaret had sense to be scaredy. This is a bad place. I don' know what could be done. But if I had my way, I'd tear it all down. I'd burn all the dirty, dark ratty places right down to the groun', and' then build it up clean an' nice. Let some sunshine in where it never was before."

# Negro Given Life Term In Slaying Of Woman

News-Birmingham, Ala.
5-27-44

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—Pleading guilty to an indictment charging him with the murder of a Negro woman whose body was found in a well in Monrovia Precincts several months after the killing, Walter Moore, a Negro farmer in his 60s, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiary at Monday's session of the Circuit Court. Sentence was imposed by Judge Schuyler H. Richardson after the defendant's attorneys and Solicitor E. D. Johnston agreed on the sentence.

# Negro War Worker Shot And Slayer Is Sought

News-Birmingham, Ala.
5-26-44

George Pradd, 39, Negro war worker, who lived at 512 North 12th Street, was shot and killed downtown at Fourth Avenue and 18th Street, North, shortly after 11 p.m., Thursday, and Friday, his assailant, a Negro, whose identity is known to police, was being sought on a murder charge. City Detectives Charles L. Pierce and J. R. Norrell placed an arrest order on file for Elbert Hargrass, 45, Negro, of 2520 Southtown Court, who they said was wanted in connection with investigation of the slaying. The officers said the slaying resulted in an argument over a Negro woman.

# 'Mother' Berngardine Is Shot.

N.Y. Mirror, N.Y.
6-25-44

Officers said that with the additional evidence that they have, surrender to city they feel justified in filing the complaint, but that they did not want had been first to convict an innocent man.

He asked that ney, declared he would welcome a the county jail. complete investigation by the grand rrest, Judge W. jury. Hogan said that he also had ed Horton, with- some evidence, which, he stated, officers had no the police knew nothing of. uspect.

ing an elevator g on the night s. Lowery, who l party in the l dead in the said that the injured when or.

murder charge m, until the and during were seeking

ked in Olmoson He declared ve one more self before cabinet radio. he has re of the bedrooms, she opened the door softly further state and told 9-year-old Bernardine and 11-quisitors to year-old Paulette to pipe down lest they wake the baby, who slept in the same room,

# 'Elevator Case' Suspect Gives Up As Charge Filed

Register, San Antonio, Texas
June 2, 1944

FOUR police declaring they had additional facts which they considered sufficient to file a charge of murder against Saturday, May 20, of Mrs. Mary Lou Lowery, 37, 228 Hicks t, a murder complaint was filed Friday, May 26, against on. Early Monday morning Horton voluntarily surrendered to of Police J. R. Ferrie. Fell Hills, with his attorney. June 2, 1944

or the two other children in the next room.

### Loud, quarrelsome voices

"I'm going to the store for milk," she said. "You stay in your bed."

She closed the bedroom door, and walked down the one flight of stairs to the street. She stopped there and chatted for a moment with her neighbor who sat in the open ground-floor window. On the steps, the apartment superintendent and another man were arguing. It seems that the superintendent's son and the other man's son had had a disagreement earlier in the evening and the former had knocked the latter cold. So the fathers were quarreling—loudly. Mrs. George, with five children in bed right upstairs, naturally resented the racket, but she said nothing and went on over to Fifth Avenue and got the milk.

As she started home, she heard an explosion. She thought it was the bursting of a tire. But then came another bang—then two more, and Mrs. George knew it was gunfire. She called to another woman, saying, "Get off the street," and ran for her own safe doorway. Once in the building she slowed down. There was nothing to fear. She walked up the stairs to her apartment. 6-25-44

### A wild look

There she found Paulette, standing in the hall with a wild look on her face. She said, "Mother! Bernardine is shot."

With Paulette clinging to her arm, Mrs. George hurried into the living room. Her 9-year-old daughter lay on the floor. Paulette had dragged her there from the fire escape. The girl was breathing, but she was unconscious and there was a pinkish froth in her mouth.

*(After Mrs. George had gone out, the two girls, intrigued by the sound of loud, quarrelsome voices, had taken a comforter out on the fire escape and had lain there on their stomachs watching the happenings on the street. Two gangs of Harlem boys, the Comanches and the Happy Gents, were fighting and one of the shots fired during their battle had pierced Bernardine's skull as she lay there with her face turned toward Fifth Avenue where her mother had gone for the milk.)*

Almost overcome by panic, Mrs. George ran downstairs and gave the super a nickel to telephone for an ambulance. In the confusion, he called the police instead.

### She died next morning

The way Mrs. George told us the story last week, detectives arrived almost instantly. They didn't pay much attention to the dying girl, but they examined the fire escape very carefully and asked many questions of the terribly upset mother.

It was some time later—Mrs. George cannot remember how long—that the detectives carried her unconscious daughter out of the apartment and down the stairs. They took her to Harlem Hospital in their patrol car. The hospital's records show that she was admitted there at 11:20 p.m. At 4:30 the next morning she died without having regained consciousness.

PM-New York, N.Y. 6-25-44

PHOTO BY SKIPPY ADELMAN

*Mrs. George, mother of the slain Bernardine, with another daughter, Iselin (story left).*

## Jury Due to Get Hanzen Murder Case During Day

Times - N.Y., N.Y. 6-1-44

The first-degree murder trial of Virginia W. Hanzeh, 30, Negro, 305 Ninth st. nw., charged with fatally shooting her husband Christmas Day during a tussle for a gun, is scheduled to go to a District Court jury by noon today, according to Assistant United States Attorney John L. Ingoldsby, jr.

Final arguments by opposing counsel will be presented this morning in the court of Justice James M. Proctor. Mrs. Hanzen took the stand in her own defense Monday, the first day of the trial, and claimed that her husband, Antonio A. Hanzen, 40, and a woman attacked her last Christmas when she entered the house at 231 Massachusetts ave. nw. The gun, which belonged to her husband, dropped to the floor and all three then sought to recover the weapon, she testified. Mrs. Hanzen claimed the other woman previously had threatened to "get" her. Times - N.Y., N.Y. 6-1-44

Massachusetts is the Nation's No. 1 cranberry producer.

Hares are common in most northern sections of the globe.

Native Indians taught the white man to catch oysters with a forked stick.

## Youth, 19, Slays Another, 17, In "Self Defense" Act

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 6-30-44

Atlanta's twenty-third Negro homicide for the year was entered in police records Thursday. It was the fourth murder for this month involving members of the race, according to records in the crime report bureau in headquarters.

Victim of the killing which is said to have occurred at Rear 471 Tatnall Street, SW, about 8:50 p. m. Wednesday, was Walter Johnson, 17, of 505 West Fair Street, SW, who was shot twice, once in the abdomen, and once in the back with bullets from a revoler.

**23**

Held on charges of suspicion of murder is Joseph Jackson, 19, of the Tatnall Street address, who after surrendering to College Park police, about 10 p. m. stated to local officers that he fired upon Johnson in defense of his life.

Police stated that on arriving at the scene of the shooting affray they found Johnson lying at the foot of the front steps to the Tatnall Street house apparently dead. After rushing the victim to Grady hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival by hospital attaches the officers stated that they questioned several witnesses, who said that the victim and two unidentified men walked into Jackson's room where he was seated in a chair, and with open knife in hand he approached Jackson. They stated to police that Jackson fired once, the bullet striking Johnson in the abdomen. They said further that on being hit, Johnson turned and ran out of the room up the hallway of the house and that Jackson fired again striking the fleeing man in the back, which felled him. 6-30-44

Officers said that they found a knife in the hall, about 10 feet from the front door and that the blade was open. Witnesses said that the victim had come to the house Tuesday night in search of Jackson, and waited for him until midnight without seeing him. They added that on that occasion the victim made the remark that he was going to kill Jackson if he had to do so on his job. 6-30-44

Immediately after the fatal shooting Jackson fled the scene but gave himself up to police at the College Park station 6-30-44 while local detectives were searching for him in Atlanta.

## Man Slain By Nephew Here

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

The twenty-sixth Negro homicide of the year was recorded in police headquarters this week.

**26**

Victim was Albert Holloway, 38, of 525 Hightower street, SW, who was killed in a fight with his nephew, Robert Veal, 23, of 487 Humphries street. 7-27-44

Officers stated they made a call to 499 Hightower street and talked with Mrs. Daisy Roberson and she informed them that the victim and young Veal became involved in a fight and that the elder man was stabbed.

It was revealed that Albert Holloway, Jr., 16, and the suspect left the latter's address and went to the Hightower street address, where the fight started and ended in the killing. 7-27-44

After the stabbing the victim was rushed to Grady hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. It was not known what led to the fight, but pollice stated that there was type of domestic misunderstandings in the family.

## NEGRO IS ARRESTED ON MURDER CHARGE

Post - Birmingham, Ala.

Tommy Jones, 31, Negro, 1322 Alley Three-n, is in the City Jail today charged with the murder of Andrew Jewel, 34, Negro, who was shot four times Sunday and died the following day at Hillman Hospital. 7-19-44

A report filed shortly after the shooting stated that Jewel entered a cafe where Jones' wife was employed. Because he was not promptly waited on, he started arguing with the waiters.

Jewel left the cafe, and returned with a knife and brick. A fight followed in which Jewel was shot.

## STABBING FATALITY CHARGED TO NEGRO

Post - Birmingham, Ala.

Frank Lewis Daniels, 30, Negro, of 2806 Avenue E, is in City Jail charged with the murder of Stephen Washington, 35, Negro, 309 Graymont-av, fatally stabbed last night. Officers said the argument followed a dice game at Avenue F and 28th-st, s.

According tot Officers E. L. Quinn and W. O. Crook, Washington was stabbed in the neck after refusing to pay Daniels money the latter said he had won. 7-20-44

Daniels was arrested by Police Sgt. L. W. Moore and Officers Crook and Quinn about an hour later.

33b-1944

# Phila. Cops Murder Negro Truck Driver

Daily Worker 11-21-44
New York, N.Y.

By WALTER LOWENFELS

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 20. — Lurid front page police stories here recounted the killing Saturday at 3:15 a.m. of a so-called "Negro bandit." Police, dominated here by the Pew-GOP machine, bequeathed the dead "thug" with an alias. They described minutely how plainclothesmen saw the "hold-up" start, caught the "bandit" refling his "victim's" pockets, and shot him dead when he threatened them. However, an investigation, being pursued by civic organizations, discloses that this is one of the most brutal crimes in local police annals.

Mrs. Beatrice Williams, whose husband was shot and killed by Patrolman Joseph Burke, has sworn out a warrant for Burke's arrest.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim, Walter Williams, 35-year-old Negro trucker, was blackjacked, shot in the back and killed with one shot by plainclothesmen. Witnesses state there was no "hold-up" but that Williams, who police admit was unarmed, was scuffling with a Negro-baiter at 15th and Ridge, a few blocks from City Hall, in the heart of a Negro section.

After police blackjacked and shot him, witness saw the groaning and bleeding body lying for 34 minutes in the street.

Ben Shoen, president of the 32d Ward Communist Club and member of the mayor's inter-racial committee, called on Negro and white people to unite to see that justice is done, to stop the reign of police brutality, rid the department of its anti-Semitic and anti-Negro groups and urged an intensified inter-racial fight for Negro rights. 11-21-44

Williams, according to his helper, 19-year-old Horace Thomas, was driving home about 3 a.m. in the truck he rents for his little broken glass and coal business, when Edward McBreatry, 55, unemployed, shouted to him from the curb at 15 and Ridge Sts., in the center of a Negro section, to turn on his lights. Words followed. Williams, aroused at McBreatry' insults, left the truck. A fight followed in which McBreatry was knocked down. 11-21-44

Four plainclothesmen came up. One of them blackjacked Williams and knocked him out. When Williams, who was unarmed, rose, patrolman Joseph Burke shot him through the back and killed him.

Beatrice Williams, the frail young widow, was still stunned when we called on her and her 10-year-old son, John, in their small apartment at 1843 N. 18 St. She has been under doctor's care for some time and was worried about how she could support her orphaned son. By Saturday, up to 6 p.m., the police had not even bothered to notify her of her husband's death.

# Policeman Kills Afro American Shipyard Worker

Balt. Md.

## Victim Had Previously Shot Soldier—Police

## CLAIM SELF-DEFENSE

11-18-44

## Cop Suspended in First Slaying in 18 Months

BALTIMORE. — Victim of the first police killing in eighteen months, Laverne Singletary, 26-year-old shipyard worker of 1036 N. Eutaw Street, died at Provident Hospital, Sunday morning, from gunshot wounds in the abdomen, chest and right hand.

Singletary was shot by Officer John Uhler of the Northwestern District at Hoffman Street and Pennsylvania Avenue at 2 a.m. Sunday. He died seven hours later.

The officer, who contends that he shot in self-defense after Singletary fired at him, grazing his lip with a bullet, was suspended from duty pending a hearing to be set by the State's attorney's office.

### Soldier Witness in Case

Also involved in the case is a soldier, Pvt. Therman Chambers, stationed at Indiantown Gap, Pa., who was treated at Provident Hospital for gunshot wounds of the hands.

Singletary is believed to have shot the soldier during an altercation which preceded the appearance of the officers on the scene. The soldier was docketed as a State's witness. 11-18-44

Accounts of reported eyewitnesses to the shooting differ from each other and from that given by the officer who did the shooting.

### Officer Describes Battle

Patrolman Uhler stated that he heard a shot in the 1100 block of Pensylvania Avenue about 2:15 a.m. Sunday, went to investigate and saw several colored men who scattered as he neared them, one running south on Pennsylvania Avenue to Hoffman Street, with a pistol in his hand.

The officer said he then gave chase and ordered the man to halt and drop his revolver, but instead the man fired at him, the bullet grazing his upper lip, just below the nose. 11-18-44

He then fired several shots at Singletary, he said, who continued to pull the trigger of his gun, although it failed to explode.

Officer William Sempeck, who had also run to the scene, is reported to have taken the gun out of Singletary's hand after he fell.

### Say Men Intoxicated

A friend who visited the Singletary home, Monday afternoon, told reporters he saw Singletary on Pennsylvania Avenue with the soldier and an unidentified person previous to the shooting. They seemed to be in a slight argument, he said, all three appearing to be under the influence of liquor. 11-18-44

The witness said he saw the officer when he approached, adding that Singletary had not fired a single shot and did not have a gun in his hand at the time.

Theodore Snowden of 471 Watty Court told reporters that both policemen were firing at Singletary as he ran and that after the injured man fell, Officer Uhler continued to shoot.

### Charged with 1 Shooting Only

Although police report that Singletary had also shot the soldier, Singletary, before he died, was charged only with the shooting of the officer.

Singletary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Singletary of Lake City, S.C., and an uncle, Troy McClam, with whom he resided, survive. Funeral arrangements are unannounced pending the arrival of the deceased's parents from South Carolina.

The last police killing occurred May 9, 1943, when Raymond Clark, 28, of 304 N. Pine Street, died from a bullet wound in the stomach inflicted by Officer Anthony J. Bizzare of the Western District. The officer was later exonerated after testimony that Clark had lunged at him with a knife.

# Find "Legal Lynching" In Georgia

N.Y., N.Y.

## Man Shot to Death By Officers Transferring Him for "Safekeeping"

4-22-44

BLACKSHEAR, Ga., (ANP)—Feared lieved to be the victim of a "legal lynching," 35-year-old Matthew Milton, charged by police with the slaying of a Waycross police captain and the wounding of a patrolman, was shot and killed by officers transferring him to the Pierce County jail, Sheriff H. M. Carter, reported Monday.

The sheriff said two Waycross officers and state patrolmen brought Milton here Sunday for "safekeeping." As he was being removed from the car to enter the jail, Milton drew an ice pick from his clothing and attacked the officers, the sheriff told newsmen. Five slugs were pumped into Milton's body.

Captain P. W. Farr of the Waycross police department, was shot and killed and Patrolman William Coggins critically wounded Sunday afternoon when they attempted to arrest Milton on a murder charge wired them by Miami police. A reward had been offered for his capture. Milton was found hiding in a church, which he used as an ambush-trade to exchange volley after volley of gunfire with the officers before he ran out of ammunition. 4-22-44

After his arrest, Milton was kept in the Waycross jail only a few minutes before state patrolmen arrived and suggested that he be transferred to the Pierce county jail, fearing that attempts would be made to storm the jail and lynch him.

Milton's body was returned to Waycross where he formerly resided before moving to Miami in 1939.

# Police Chief Faces Trial

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.

10-21-44

WASHINGTON—The Department of Justice announced the filing, on October 9, in the U. S. District court at Dublin, Ga., of an information charging James Mitchell Bohannon, chief of police of the town of Summit, Ga., with a violation of the Civil Rights statutes in the killing of Willie L. Davis, a Negro soldier.

The information, filed on behalf of the Government by U. S. Attorney J. Saxton Daniel, alleges that Bohannon, "acting under the color of law," shot Davis without provocation on the night of July 3, 1943. The police official had been called to a Negro roadhouse on the outskirts of Summit to restore order, the information states. After order had been restored, but while still acting as chief of police, Bohannon "wilfully, unlawfully and without provocation" shot and killed Davis with a pistol, according to the information.

A coroner's inquest was held after the shooting, but no prosecutive action was taken by State authorities. The case was then referred for action to the Department of Justice by the War Department.

10-21-44

# JOURNALISM AT ITS WORST

Tribune — Philadelphia, Pa.

*Early last Saturday morning a hard-working colored man was shot to death by a policeman in plain clothes while engaged in a fight with a white man. The policeman then falsely charged that the fight was a holdup. The inflammatory heads published below were used by local daily newspapers over their stories of the killing. Readers of the guilty newspapers will never know that the stories were false, because either no correction has been made, or if made, was not given the prominence of the false stories. Here are the captions complained of:*

*NEGRO BANDIT SLAIN AS HE BEATS VICTIM. —The Daily News.*

*POLICEMAN KILLS THUG CROUCHING OVER VICTIM. —The Evening Bulletin.*

*In fairness to the Bulletin, they carried a correction, with an inconspicuous head. "SLAIN MAN WASN'T THIEF."*

11-25-44

# 30 Truck Drivers Pledge Funds For Prosecution

Tribune — Philadelphia, Pa.

11-25-44

## Others Offer Aid to Naacp, Elks And

By Wm. B. CARTER, JR

Seaman Smith, of 857 north 13th street, collaborates the testimony of Thomas and says that he saw no apparent reason for the shooting.

According to the testimony of Nathaniel Thomas, 19, who was Williams' helper, they approached the intersection about 2:30 a. m., when a white man, Edward McBrearty, 53, of 1504 Brown street, called to Williams, the operator of a coal and trucking business that his running lights were out.

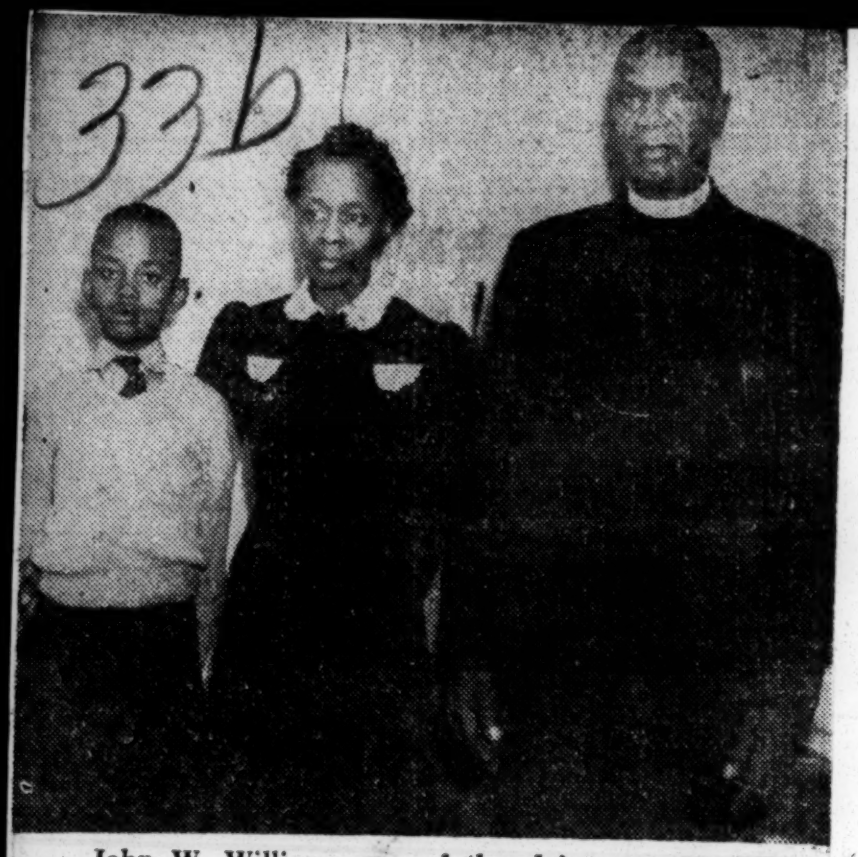
Williams replied that the man should mind his own affairs. An argument followed and the trucker struck McBrearty knocking him to the street. Thomas then asserts that detectives arrived and, after first striking Williams with a blackjack, officer Burke shot the man in his back as he was getting up from the pavement.

*NOT ATTEMPTED ROBBERY*

Mrs. Beatrice Williams, of 1843 north 18th street, widow of the slain Walter James Williams, 41, swore out a warrant before Magistrate Hobson Reynolds Monday for Thomas and Patrolman Joseph Burke, following the slaying of her husband early Saturday morning at 15th street and Ridge avenue. The warrant charges the officer with "homicide and the wanton, reckless use of firearms."

26-44

33b



John W. Williams, son of the slain man; Mrs. Beatrice Williams, his wife; and the Rev. J. W. Whalen, of Milford, Del., Mrs. Williams' father

WALTER JAMES WILLIAMS
THE SLAIN MAN

also said that Williams had no gun during their fight. Detectives later learned this to be true when they retrieved no gun from the body. It was originally reported that Williams threatened the officers with a weapon.

*SURVIVED BY SMALL SON*

Williams and McBrearty were taken to the Hahnemann Hospital where he was pronounced dead, and McBrearty was also treated for bruises about the head and released. 11-25-44

The Independent Coal Dealers of North Philadelphia are raising a fund for the temporary support of Mrs. Williams and her ten-year-old son. The same committee of men appealed to Hobson Reynolds, grand director of the Civil Liberties Department of the Elks, for aid in the case. Reynolds has turned the report over to the Liberties group for immediate action.

Mrs. Caroline Davenport Moore, executive secretary of the NAACP, has also provided the widow with the services of her organization. E. Washington Rhodes, attorney, has been appointed to prosecute the case.

*WELL LIKED*

Williams was well liked by the men with whom he was associated and Dr. Hamill, druggist at 18th and Berks streets, said, "I was most surprised at the shooting. . . Williams was such a fine fellow. . . always a smile and a good word for everyone. I never heard him swear in my life." 11-25-44

The Police Department so far has not taken any action against Burke, as they feel that the killing was done in the line of duty.

33b-1944

## In Comes Sheriff Screws

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

The case of Sheriff Claude M. Screws of Baker County, Georgia versus the United States Government, is set for hearing at the October term of the United States Supreme Court. Not even the personal anxiety of the Sheriff exceeds the popular interest in the case. For upon its outcome rests not only the fate of the Sheriff and his accomplices, but likewise it will determine the future destiny of States' Rights, in so far as Civil Rights' violations are concerned.

10-22-44

The pending case is an appeal from convictions of the Sheriff and two accomplices growing out of violations of Section 52 of the Civil Rights Statues of the U. S. Department of Justice, against the deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

Sheriff Screws, a local policeman, Frank Jones, and a deputy, Bob Kelley, were convicted and sentenced last October in federal district court of the Middle Georgia division, which was held at Albany, Georgia and presided over by the late and lamented Judge B. S. Deaver. The trio were convicted for arresting a Negro, Robert (Boddie) Hall, on a false warrant, charging him with theft of an automobile tire and beating him to death without justification. It was revealed that sometime previous, Sheriff Screws had taken a pearl-handled revolver from Robert (Bobbie) Hall, and became greatly incensed when Hall appealed to the grand jury and openly threatened to "get" Hall for being so smart. Following a drinking spree, he dispatched Jones and Kelley to arrest Hall, with the result that the three of them beat the victim so severely that he died several hours later.

A state grand jury and district court concurred with the federal government's findings that the evidence showed the three policemen to be guilty of depriving Hall of his life without due process of law, a right vouchsafe to him under the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment. But since the Fourteenth Amendment protects against states' rather than individual rights, the government was required to establish further the fact that the deprivation of those rights was the act of the state. The grand jury agreed with the government on this point, also. Thus it was clear throughout the trial proceedings that these officers were acting, not in their individual capacities, but under the cloak of law of the state.

10-22-44

Sheriff Screws' case is the first test of Section 52, as applied to the 14th Amendment. It has been built with care and caution by the searching legal mind of T. Hoyt Davis, who since has been nominated to succeed the late Judge Deaver to the federal Bench. In the event that the Supreme Court rules favorably for the Government against the Sheriff, the Justice Department will be in a position to move in on a large number of cases of Civil Rights' now pending. According to one estimate, between 8,000 and 14,000 complaints have been received annually since 1939 under the Civil Rights Section. In 1943, 31 full investigations under Section 52 were conducted, and only 3 cases brought to trial.

# Police Murder of Negro Trucker Arouses City-Wide Anger

The Worker — New York, N.Y. 11-26-44

PHILADELPHIA.—The police bullet that killed Walter Williams, 35-year-old Negro trucker, came out above his heart, six inches higher than where it hit him in the back early last Saturday morning at 15 and Ridge Sts. The heart of Philadelphians of all races, creeds and colors has been aroused by this shot in the back. Demands for justice by civic and social leaders, and of people in all walks of life, has been summed up by Arthur Huff Fauset, head of the United Peoples Action Committee: **"This is one of the most brutal crimes in local police annals. The case against Joseph Burke, the patrolman who admits the shooting, and his accomplices, must be prosecuted with vigor. Furthermore, the whole city, Negro and white, will unite in insisting to the Mayor and to the United States District Attorney that the ani-Negro, anti-Semitic groups be cleaned out of our police department and our city. Otherwise, we all face the danger of further tragedies."**

An investigation, initiated by this paper early last Saturday afternoon, and pursued since then by various civic groups, has disclosed the following facts:

**PRESS HYSTERIA**

Lurid front page stories, released by police officials, originally tried to picture the slain man as a "Negro bandit." The police, dominated here by the Pew-GOP machine, even bequeathed the dead "thug" with an alias. Their stories described minutely the way they saw the "hold-up," caught the "criminal" rifling his "victim's" pockets, and shot him when he turned toward them from a threatening gesture to his hip pocket. They admitted from the first that Williams was unarmed.

Since then, their stories have changed. But the record already shows they tried to get away with murder, until the vigorous investigation, started by this paper and pursued by UPAC and others, began to bring out the true facts from eyewitnesses, and public demaands for justice had to be met.

Williams, according to his helper, 19-year-old Horace Thomas, and other witnesses, was driving home in the truck he rents for his little glass and coal business. Edward McBrearty, 55, unemployed, shouted to him from the curb at 15th and Ridge Sts. McBrearty's Negro-baiting was followed by angry words. Williams, aroused by McBrearty's insults, left the truck. A fight followed, McBrearty was knocked down. Four plainclothesmen came up. According to some accounts, one of them blackjacked Williams. The trajectory of the bullet indicated that Williams was shot while bending forward, or while lying flat on his stomach. Patrolman Joseph Burke admits firing the shot that hit Williams in the back and killed him. Some witnesses say the body lay in the street for three-quarters of an hour.

**WIDOW NOT NOTIFIED**

Mrs. Beatrice Williams, mother of the dead man's 10-year-old son, was still stunned when we visited her about six o'clock Saturday evening: "The first I knew of my husband's death was late Saturday morning when a sailor, a stranger to me, called on me to tell me that he had been a witness to my husband's death, and that the newspaper stories were false. That was the first time I heard my husband was dead. No, the police have not yet called on me."

Edward McBrearty was interviewed by us Saturday afternoon, about five o'clock. He was just returning to his rooming house at 1508 Ridge Ave. with a bag of rolls under his arm. Except for a black eye, he seemed in good shape. At that time he was still telling the "hold up" story, and praised Burke for the killing. He claimed to have been knocked senseless by Williams, and said he had not heard the shot.

This week, the Evening Bulletin tucked away in two paragraphs on page three a partial retraction of its original front page "thug" story, but still credited Williams with an "alias"—Robert Jones. This is the man from whom Williams rented his truck, and whose name was painted on it.

In this connection this correspondent can testify that the results of our investigation were made available, beginning Saturday, to the local press. But to this writing only the Negro weeklies, and these in varying degrees, made any effort to get the true facts.

"Every aspect of this crime is revolting to every decent Philadelphian," said Frank Cestare, president of the Communist Political Association. "It calls for inter-racial unity and education on a greatly intensified scale to reach not only the leadership but the rank and file of all organizations."

## Policeman Kills Man Accused Of Picking Pockets In Theatre

Age — New York, N.Y. 4-1-44

A man who was said to have been of a trio which had picked the pockets of Benjamin Drumgold, of 230 West 113th street, in the Regent Theatre, Thursday night, was shot and instantly killed when he attempted to knife a patrolman who chased him.

Patrolman William Cash, 28, of 112 West 138th street, member of the Police Department for just about a year, was attending the show in civilian clothes with his wife, Ethel, when he heard a scream from a front balcony seat. The scream came from Drumgold who said he had felt the three youths nudge him and when he put his hand in his pocket he discovered that $18 in cash and his watch had been stolen.

4-1-44

Three men were running away from Drumgold when Patrolman Cash ran down the aisle and chased them. One of them turned, drawing a long hunting knife, and hit the policeman over the head with the butt of it. Patrolman Cash drew his gun and fired, the shot instantly killing the man who was identified as Alonzo Patterson, 30, of 25 St. Nicholas avenue. In the confusion, the other two men escaped.

Danger of a panic in the theatre was quickly averted by the management which turned up the lights and explained to the theatregoers what had happened. In a few minutes the show was resumed.

WALTER WILLIAMS

# Demand Federal Probe
Defender — Chicago, Ill.
# In Killing Of Soldier
3-25-44

BIRMINGHAM. — On the basis of an on-the-spot investigation conducted in Gadsden, Ala., by its organizational secretary, Louis E. Burnham, the Southern Negro Youth Congress has sent identical summary statements to Secretary of War Stimpson and Attorney General Biddle calling for prompt action by the War Department and the Department of Justice in connection with the killing on March 11 of Raymond McMurray, Negro soldier who had been stationed at Camp Sibert, Ala.

Emphasizing the fact that McMurray, who was killed by local police officers, had not been convicted of the crime of rape with which he had been charged and that there is strong indication that he was not even in Cadsden at the time of the alleged attack, the statement declared that "copious circumstantial evidence, known to the public, leads to the belief that this incident ranks with the most dastardly crimes in the annals of Southern police terror."

The soldier was slain Saturday by an escort of Gadsden and Etowah county peace officers, who were transferring the suspect from Anniston to Birmingham for "safekeeping." 3-25-44

McMurray, a former resident of Chicago, unarmed and handcuffed, was riddled with bullets as he rode in the custody of three police officers from the Calhoun county jail to the Jefferson county jail, Birmingham. The transfer was being made after rumors persisted that a mob planned to storm the jail.

## Ex-Convict Killed By Police Officer
News — Birmingham, Ala.
10-8-44

An escaped Negro convict was fatally shot early Wednesday morning by Birmingham Police Officer L. L. Marlow when the officer caught him in the act of robbing a filling station in English Village, Coroner Joe Hildebrand said.

The Negro, who was listed by the coroner as Daniel Nesley, alias James Evans, alias James Wesley, struck Officer Marlow over the head with his shoe when Marlow and a fellow officer, W. A. Cook, found the Negro prying the door of a filling station at 1900 Cahaba Road, Coroner Hildebrand reported.

Officer Marlow then shot and killed the Negro, the coroner said.

# U. S. To Probe Dixie Killing
Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.
10-14-44

ATLANTA, Ga.—(ANP) — The United States Grand jury will be handed the facts gathered by the Department of Justice in the fatal shooting in the back of Schnell Dixon, 16, by Patrolman V. H. Whittley, it was announced Saturday by M. Neil Andrews, U. S. district attorney.

Dixon, according to reports, was fleeing from an outdoor gambling game after being surprised by Officer Whittley at the time he was shot. The .38 slug entered his back, lodging in his lung.

# Southern Cop Kills Chained Negro Soldier
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.
10-21-44

**Justice Dept. Files Charge That Police Chief Slew GI Without Any Provocation**

**DAWSON, Ga. (ANP)—Self-defense was claimed Tuesday by Howard Lee, local police officer, in the fatal shooting of Lewis Kelly, whom he had handcuffed and placed under arrest.**

**Officer Lee said he was called to quell a disturbance at a cafe and placed Kelly under arrest on drunk and disorderly charges. A chain handcuff was placed around Kelly's wrists, the officer retaining one end of the chain. En route to the jail, according to the policeman, Kelly attempted to pull away and cursed him.** 10-21-44

**The policeman whipped out his pistol and fired two shots, one of them fatally wounding the manacled prisoner in the abdomen. No charges have been filed against the policeman.**

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Information charging that a Georgia police chief killed a Negro soldier "without provocation" was filed last week by the Department of Justice, the International Labor Defense announced Monday.

The information was filed in the U. S. District Court at Dublin, Ga., by U. S. Attorney J. Saxton Daniel, acting on behalf of the government. It alleges that James Mitchell Bohannon, Chief of Police for the town of Summit, Ga., shot the Negro serviceman on the night of July 3, 1943, while "acting under the color of the law." Bohannon is charged with a violation of the Civil Rights Statues. 10-21-44

According to the information, the police official had been called to restore order to a Negro roadhouse on the outskirts of the town of Summit. It alleges that after he had restored order, but while still acting as chief of police, Bohannon "wilfully, unlawfully and without provocation" shot and killed Willie L. Davis, a Negro soldier, with a pistol.

"A coroner's jury was held following the shooting," the information asserts, "but no prosecution action was taken by State authorities. The case was then referred for action to the Department of Justice by the War Department. The Federal government takes jurisdiction because the slain man was deprived of his life without due process of law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, and charges the defendant, Bohanno, under Section 52, Title 18, U. S. Code." 10-21-44

The action was taken following an investigation by the FBI and Army authorities, and was authorized by Assistant Attorney Tom C. Clark, in charge of the Criminal Division, it is reported.

# Sergeant Killed By Dixie Police In Van Dorn Row
Defender — Chicago, Ill.
10-14-44

McCOMB, Miss. — Dixie's toll of police-slain Negro soldiers mounted here this week.

Shot during a fight with a white civilian policeman, Tech. Sgt. William F. Morgan of Taft, Okla., died here Sunday morning.

Sgt. Morgan was killed while trying to prevent a McComb policeman from beating a Negro civilian.

Contacted by the Defender, Colo- commander of Camp here Pvt. Morgan was sta[ted] that the soldier had been [k]illed to death Oct. 7 while in McComb on a pass.

Colonel Guthrie stated that he had been told that Sgt. Morgan had taken a blackjack from a white policeman who was arresting a Negro. He said that while Morgan severely beat the policeman, another officer entered the fray and shot and killed the soldier.

Both army and civilian authorities, said Colonel Guthrie, are conducting an investigation of the incident.

Mrs. Ethel Rockwell Morgan, wife of the slain soldier and mother of his six-month old girl, stated that she had first received notice of her husbands death from Commander Guthrie early Sunday morning. 10-14-44

Mrs. Morgan, formerly an employee of the Chicago Defender, lives at 6146 Aberdeen street in Chicago. She stated that her husband had been scheduled for a furlough within a week.

# Negro Soldier Slain In North Louisiana By Cop
The Louisiana Weekly, New Orleans, La.
11-4-44

In a letter to the New Orlean[s] Branch of the NAACP the follow[ing] sordid account was written revealing the slaying of another Negro soldier by a Dixie law officer on the home front.

Lake Providence. — Corporal Willie Osborne, who was home on furlough from Camp Claiborne, La., was slain by the local night marshall, John Sullivan (white), and was buried in the Good Samaritan cemetery with military honors. Rev. J. H. Scott was in charge of the funeral service.

The story relates that while Osborne stood on the out- ing waiting for his fiancee, engaged), the marshall vancing upon her. When officer to step back and pushed him. The officer still clutching the knife in rushed toward them. officers fired and Means was time, the bullet penetrating the heart. Rev. Scott called upon many

# Advancing On Officers, Negro Is Shot To Death
Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.
12-2-44

Clifford Means, 42, Negro, of 921 North 31st Street, was shot to death in the abdomen Monday night by A. E. Taylor, 4920 First Avenue, South, night watchman at the Southern Cotton Oil Company, 4601 Georgia Road, North. Taylor told officers the Negro climbed over a back fence and entered the warehouse apparently in an effort to steal sacks. Robinson is in a critical condition at Hillman Hospital.

officers said they were driv- 1311 Fifth Avenue, North, ney saw Means slashing his zzie, 25, across the face with and after she had fallen on her. When they shouted to stop, the officers said

33b-1944

# Soldier, Held On Alleged Rape Charge, Slain By Ala. Officers

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 3-14-44

By EMORY O. JACKSON

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. —(SNS) — A Camp Sibert official said in a telephone interview to the WORLD Monday that an "investigation prescribed by law" would be launched into the fatal shooting Saturday afternoon of a Camp Sibert Negro soldier, charged with alleged rape of a Gadsden white woman, by an escort of Gadsden and Etowah County law officials who were transferring the soldier from Anniston, Alabama to Birmingham, Alabama for "safe keeping."

2nd Lt. Jordan A. Hodgkins, C. W. S., acting adjutant of the Army Service Forces, Fourth Service Command, Camp Sibert, Alabama, explained that "I did not know about the shooting until this (Monday) Morning." He added that he had a report of the tragedy on his desk, but that he had not had time to study it and therefore could "issue no details." He referred the inquiry to the Sibert public relations department.

A soldier identified as Raymond McMurrary, 20, charged with the criminal attack of a Gadsden white woman, unarmed and obviously handcuffed, was riddled with bullets as he rode in the custory of three police officers near Pell City after being transferred from the Calhoun County Jail and en route to the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham. 3-14-44

First placed in the Etowah County Jail, Gadsden, Alabama, Pvt. McMurrary was later transferred to Calhoun County Jail, and then was being moved to Birmingham.

According to press reports, "About two miles east of Pell City, he (McMurrary) suddenly lurched forward and seized Sheriff O. P. Reagan (of Etowah county)," who was driving the automobile, by the head," Coroner Jack DeGaris said, "The car ran off the road. The Negro was then shot five times by Chief Fay Bowman (Gadsden police chief) and Chief of Detectives Jack Fisher."

A coroner's jury empaneled by Coroner De Garis of Poll City swiftly returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.

Press accounts said: "Solicitor Frnak Embray of the 16th Judicial Circuit later declared that in addition to the criminal attack charge, McMurray was wanted at Gadsden and Birmingham on robbery charges. 3-14-44

The alleged molestation is said to have occurred February 18 and was reported in the press February 19.

In asnwer to an inquiry on the reported incident, Lt. Hodgkins wrote, in part: "The military authorities and the civilian law enforcement agencies are working diligentiy and harmoniously in an effort to apprehend the guilty party." His letter was dated Feb. 20 Monday L. Hodgkins called after reporters had requested a statement from him, to say: "The case was in the hands of civilian authorities."

Confidential reports reached reporters that in an attempt to establish the identity of the alleged attacker, a line up of Sibert soldier was conducted, but that the inspection failed to yield the person. Lt. Hodgkins letter was silent on this specific part of the inquiry However, his conversation Monday said that the slain soldier was absent without leave (aw. o. l.) He could not say whether Pvt. McMurray had been in camp from Feb. 19 to the time of the slaying or just when the soldier was charged with aw. o. l.

# Army Inductee Falls Victim To Police Bullets

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 1-27-44

## Officer Says He Advanced On Him With Knife

George Franks, 34, of Ellenwood, Ga., said to have been a recent inductee to the colors, although not yet in uniform, was killed by Police Officer G. M. Ellis, Patrolman in the Decatur, Ivy Street section of the city, Tuesday night about 9:45 o'clock, according to records in police station.

This slaying brings to three the total of Negroes slain, for this year, two others having been killed at the hands of members of their own race. The killing is said to have occurred at Decatur and Ivy Sts., and was the aftermath of an altercation between the officer and victim, which began in a cafe and combination beer garden at 91 Decatur St.

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ON NIGHTLY CHECK

1-27-44

The police report said that Officer Ellis went into the business establishment for his routine nightly check. He said George Pappas, the proprietor of the place, asked him to clean out the idlers and loafers, as too many had gathered in the place. The officer stated that he asked all persons who were not eating or drinking to leave the place. He stated that most of those asked left, but Franks. On approaching Franks, the officer said, the victim told him, I'll leave in a few minutes" Second time he said he asked Franks to leave, and that the reply then was, "I'm not going any d.. n place." The officer reported that he then told Franks that if he didn't leave he would have to lock him up for idling and loitering, to which Franks replied, "that the officer or no one else would lock him up."

Officer Ellis stated that he then took Franks by the arm to lead him from the place, and was shoved by the victim. He claimed that he then took out his blackjack, and was shoved again by the dead man, who also started to grab him. "I then hit him with the blackjack and he grabbed my arm, wrenching the blackjack from my hand. In the struggle the blackjack fell to the floor. The Negro then started towards me for the second time and at that time I pulled my service revolver, and he stopped. I then took hold of Franks and started towards the door and again the vctim shoved me away from him, while trying to grab my gun, "the officer stated in his report. 1-27-44

PROPRIETOR WARNS

At this point it was stated that the proprietor of the place warned Franks to go along with the officer to keep from getting hurt and also asked the officer to refrain from shooting him. The officer said then they both left the place and began walking to a call box, and all the while Franks continued to resist.

On arriving at Decatur and Ivy Sts, the patrolman, said that Franks took a pocketbook from his pocket and then placed it back in the pocket. When his hands came out the second time, the officer stated, Franks came out with a knife and opened it." I shoved him away from me, Officer Ellis stated, and he continued towards me with knife open, stating, I'll kill you, you....." I then shot him twice, and sent him to Grady where he was pronounced dead on arrival."

Several persons who were eyewitnesses to the slaying, stated that the victim had been drinking, and that he was shot twice when he reached for his induction papers to show the officer that he was scheduled to leave Wednesday to enter the armed services. Other statements jibed with that given by the officer firing the fatal bullets. 1-27-44

It was not learned what disposition would be made of the body of the slain man, but it was stated that relatives had been notified of the occurrence in Ellenwood.

# Guard at Pew Yard Held for Slaying Negro

Daily Worker - New York, N.Y. 1-3-44

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHESTER, Pa., Jan. 2. — The captain of the guards at the Pew Sun Shipyard, James Brown, has been arrested and charged with the murder of Frank Giddings.

Giddings was the 18 year old Negro worker who was fatally wounded by Brown in the shooting last June 18 of seven Negro workers by the company guards, also Negroes, members of the company union.

The shooting climaxed the campaign waged for years by the Pew family against the CIO, and proceeded by a few days the election in which the CIO defeated the company union.

Brown, at first held without bail, was later released on $5,000 bail, furnished by John G. Pew, president of the yard. 1-3-44

Although admitting that he had shot Giddings, Brown has previously been whitewashed by the Corner's inquest, and by a Naval Board of Inqury. Brown, and other guards, maintained that they were in danger from a group of unarmed workers in a Number 4 yard who were protesting a grievance at the time the guards started firing into them.

Two young CIO Negro workers were released from jail Dec. 15, after serving two months on charges of rioting, and were greeted as martyrs at a mass meeting in Philadelphia at which Rev. A. Clayton Powell spoke. Another of Mr. Pew's Negro CIO workers is still in jail, serving a three months sentence on the same "rioting" charge

# OFFICERS CLEAR IN KILLING CASE.

Post - Birmingham, Ala. 3-12-44

## Jury Exonerates Police In Shooting Of Prisoner In Auto

PELL CITY, March 13.—A jury empaneled by Coroner Jack DeGaris has exonerated two Gadsden officers who shot to death Raymond McMurray, 20, Negro, while en route to Jefferson County Jail Saturday.

McMurray, a soldier formerly stationed at Camp Sibert, was charged with criminal attack Feb. 18 on a prominent Gadsden woman. Sheriff O. P. Reagan, of Etowah County, was driving the car which carried the Negro when the prisoner seized the sheriff by the head and stuck his fingers in the officer's eyes, breaking his glasses and causing the car to swerve suddenly, according to the officers. 3-13-44

Chief of Detectives Jack Fisher and Fay Bowman, Gadsden chief of police fired several shots into McMurray's body.

The Negro, who had been moved from Etowah County Jail to Calhoun County Jail, was being moved because of reported threats against his life. He was unarmed.

In addition to the criminal attack charge, Solicitor Frank Embry of the 16th Judicial Circuit, declared that McMurray was wanted at Gadsden and Birmingham on grand larceny counts.

# Negro Shot To Death By Officers En Route To Jail In Birmingham

News - Birmingham, Ala. 3-12-44

PELL CITY, Ala.—Raymond McMurray, 20, Negro, charged with criminal attack in connection with an attack Feb. 18 on a prominent Gadsden woman, was shot to death Saturday afternoon by Gadsden officers near Pell City while en route to the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham for safekeeping.

McMurray, who had been moved from the Etowah County Jail to the Calhoun County Jail, was en route to Birmingham because of reported threats against his life, and was shot, officers declared, after he allegedly attacked Sheriff O. P. Reagan, of Etowah County, driver of the automobile. The Negro was unarmed, investigation disclosed.

According to reports, the Negro was shot by Jack Fisher, chief of detectives, and Fay Brown, chief of police of Gadsden, who were exonerated by a coroner's jury, hastily empaneled at Pell City by Coroner Jack deGaris 3-12-44

The only witnesses were the officers, who testified that at a point about two miles east of Pell City, McMurray suddenly lurched forward and seized Sheriff Reagan by the head. The officers testified that the Negro stuck his fingers in the sheriff's eyes, breaking his glasses and causing the car to lurch sharply.

Several shots were fired into the

# Man Killed In Running Gun Battle With Police

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 1-11-44

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—and wounded a police officer, Knox

Said to have opened fire first Fall, age about 32, was killed on

the streets of downtown Birmingham late Tuesday in a running gun battle with three police officers who were reported joined by a white soldier, on request of the wounded officer, and by a bus operator. The condition of the officer was reported 'good" although he was described as 'seriously' wounded.

Police Officer J. E. McDonlad is said to have attempted to arrest Fail on the corner of 20th Street and Second Ave., No., about 4:45 p. m. on complaint of a white woman that Fail had entered a white woman's rest room in a nearby building, with Fail opening fire.

Assistant Police Chief Cousins said that Fail fired two shots at Officer McDonald with one bullet taking effect. Mr. Cousins' account adds that the wounded officer handed his gun to Pfc. Peter Paul Szntiar, Jr., of the Birmingham Army Air Base, who was by-standing near the scene with the soldier shooting once at Fail, probably hitting him in the thigh.

Soon Police Officer J. A. Hale is reported to have reached the scene, fired several shots at the fleeing Fail, on hitting the slain man in the neck. Fail is said to have run east on Second Avenue with Officer Hale and Pfc. Szntiar, Jr., chasing him Mr. Cousins indicated that while Fail was running, he was re-loading his .32 calibre pistol. 1-11-44

Fail is reported to have turned as he reached Second Ave., and 21st St., took a crack at Police Officer H. P. Williams who was rushing to the scene, the bullet grazing the coat of the officer. Williams is said to hve fired two shots which wounded the victim.

Unidentified at the time, an ambulance from the Southside Branch of Shortridge Funeral Home rushed the mortally wounded man to Hillman Hospital where he died shortly after arrival.

One version of the shooting affray said that when the officer came to arrest Fail, that Fail whipped a pistol from his coat and began firing without warning. Hundreds of shoppers were reported on the streets at the time with the shooters able to direct their fire without injury to bystanders. 1-11-44

Omer Bently, an armed city bus driver, said according to reports that he was taking on passengers on his bus at Second Ave., and 22nd St., when he hard the shots He said that Fail saw him pull his gun and began to fire at him. And that he fired back.

Coroner Gip Evans said 66 rounds of .32 caliber ammunition and $91 was found upon Fail's body. Detectives N. C. Propst and W. E. DeGroat of the homicide squad were able to identify the victim by use of fingerprints. 1-11-44

The victim whose 1941 address was listed as 323 58th St., No. had a crime record which showed he was arrested in 1942 on two charges of an assault with a weapon and fined $200 and given a prison term, according to police records.

Funeral arrangements had not been made late Wednesday.

# Atlanta Police Kill Youth, 18

Daily World

# Sunday; Gaming Advance Charged

Atlanta, Ga.

## Witnesses State Boy Not Giving Officers Trouble

4-18-44

Homicide number 16 was recorded on police records Monday, when Herman Dixon, known as "Sunnell," was killed by Atlanta police.

It was stated that Dixon, said to be about 18 years old, was with several friends, and that he was talking with one of the boys when police interrupted a crap game. Reports said that Dixon, who was not taking part in the gaming, was pushed by one officer into a garage, and that during this time, one of the boys playing craps fled from the scene, and that after police shot at him, the officer and Dixon entered into an altercation which resulted in the shooting of Dixon. This is said to have occurred near 559 Frazier Street about 1 p. m. Sunday.

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The WORLD learned that Dixon was not resisting arrest or trying to get away, because he was not to have been participating in the gaming at the time. It was stated from reliable sources that Dixon was shot down during the investigation in a case in which he had no part.

It was further stated that after Dixon fell, mortally wounded from the fire of the officer's gun, he was taken to Grady Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. 4-18-44

Police stated that they answered a call to the Frazier Street address and found the crap game in progress, and that Dixon, after being caught in the game, advanced on one of them with a revolver and that they pulled a gun and shot him.

It was also stated that several boys who were gaming were taken to police station, and that the police came in to interrupt the game and following the fatal shooting of Dixon, one of the boys who refused to state to the police that Dixon advanced on one of the officers with a knife, was beaten in jail. It was learned that the others stated that Dixon was shot by the officers in defense of their lives.

Howard Little of this city is an uncle of the dead lad, and it was said that his mother is in Chicago.

# Police Slay Man Following

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga. 4-21-44

# Shooting Affray Wednesday

## Claim Victim Fired On Them After Wounding Man Over Woman

Homicide No. 18 was recorded Thursday on police records. The records showed that Clarence Robinson, 30, of 151 South Chappell St. S. W., was slain by county police officers at 470 Mitchell St., S. W., Wednesday night about 9:25 o'clock. He was dead on arrival at Grady hospital, where he was taken following a shooting affray.

This was the third Negro killing of the week, and the second in which an officer figured. Hospital attaches reported that Robinson was struck by bullets fired from the pistols of three officers. He was hit in in the upper right arm, once in the back, once in the right shoulder blade, through the right side, once in the chin, and several times in the right leg.

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City police headquarters in making the report of the killing, said they were called to 469 Mitchell Street about 9:30 o'clock, and on arrival, met County Officer G. A. Carter, State Road Patrolman B. G. Ragsdale and State Revenue Officer Lamar Sumner. The officers stated that they were at the corner of Mitchell and Davis Sts., and heard three shots fired in front of 466 Mitchell Street.

The officers further stated that on investigation, they met Robinson running from the scene in their direction, with a pistol in his right hand. They claim they ordered him to stop, and he fired at them twice. They said they returned the fire, all three using their guns. The officers stated that Robinson had been in an affray with William Ogletree, 41 of 41 Electric and was running from the scene of the disturbance.

Officers reported that Ogletree was shot by Robinson through the right thigh above the knee, through the right foot and had been struck over the left eye with the pistol held by Robinson. It was said that the two men argued about a woman prior to the shooting. 4-21-44

**SAW SHOOTING**

An eyewitness to the shooting, Claude Champion, 35, of 557 West Fair St., told officers that the men had some discussion concerning the identity of a woman. He said that Ogletree spoke to the woman, and that Robinson asked him if he knew the woman. It was said that Ogletree replied that he knew the woman only by sight, and that immediately Robinson made insulting remarks to Ogletree and then struck him down and fired upon him twice.

Ogletree was admitted to Grady hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

## Patrolman Wounded, Kills Negro In Harlem

Age-Herald Birmingham, Ala.

NEW YORK — (AP) — In an exchange of gunfire on a Harlem street, Patrolman John Gilgan was wounded in the abdomen and a Negro was killed Saturday.

Papers found on the Negro's body bore the name of Curtis Madison Smith, 27, of Miami, Fla., police said. 6-25-44

Patrolman Gilgan, in critical condition at Harlem Hospital, said two Negroes came up to his car while he was on duty. One threatened him with a revolver, declaring "this is a stickup," Gilgan said. The policeman then fired his own gun, and the Negro returned the fire.

Half a block from the shooting police later found James Brown, 25, Negro, who had collapsed because of a gunshot wound in his shoulder, he told police he was a bystander.

## Police Sergeant Kills Gunman Firing on Wife

Tribune - Chicago, Ill. 6-22-44

Sgt. Patrick McCormick of the Marquette station Tuesday night shot and killed Charles Kimble, 36, Negro, of 906 S. Wolcott av., in a gun fight at Roosevelt rd. and Hermitage av. Kimble had chased his wife, Nellie, from a store there, and

## Cop's Bullet Kills Man in Holdup Chase

Daily Worker, N. Y. 8-7-44

A Negro walked into the photographic shop of Eli Gordon at 804 Eighth Ave., near 49th St., this afternoon, gestured as though with a gun in his pocket, shoved Mr. Gordon to the rear, scooped a handful of bills from the cash register and rap.

Mr. Gordon set out in shouting pursuit and attracted the attention of Patrolman George Caldwell of Traffic E, who was coming out of the independent subway station. The policeman drew his gun, chased the robber a block as the man turned east into 48th St. and then killed him with a single shot. 8-7-44

A draft card in the dead man's pocket bore the name of Howard Miles of Elizabeth City, Va.

7-23-44

"Did you make a statement to the district attorney?" he was asked.

"I did, sir," was the reply, which precluded further questions on the homicide. "That's all, take him away," Capt. Cronin ordered.

While waiting, Brown, a friend of the slain woman, sat apart from the other prisoners.

do and answered the questions of Acting Capt. Cronin concerning the of 1st Sgt. Clarence Brown latter's bride, Mrs. Mi- Brown, both Negroes, and the Harlem street early yester-

New York, N. Y.

Dressed in a gray pencil-striped suit and brown and white sports shoes, Patrolman George F. Brown, 39-year-old Negro, went through police lineup today—this time on the other side of the floodlights.

The ex-detective, blinked under the glare as his own prisoners on a

## Patrolman Held In Double Killing

33b-1944

# Ask U. S. Probe Killing of Negro Soldier in Alabama

## Negro Youth Congress Offers Full Report to Stimson, Biddle

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

3-20-44

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, March 19.—On the basis of an on-the-spot investigation conducted in Gadsden, Alabama, by its organizational-secretary, Louis E. Burnham, the Southern Negro Youth Congress has sent identical summary statements to Secretary of War Stimson and Attorney General Biddle calling for prompt action by the War Department and the Department of Justice in connection with the killing on March 11 of Raymond McMurray, Negro soldier who had been stationed at Camp Sibert, Alabama. Emphasizing the fact that McMurray, who was killed by local police officers, had not been convicted of the crime of rape with which he had been charged and that there is strong indication that he was not even in Gadsden at the time of the alleged attack, the statement declared that "copious circumstantial evidence, known to the public, leads to the belief that this incident ranks with the most dastardly crimes in the annals of Southern police terror."

The Congress account of the murder, based on Burnham's investigation, follows:

"On Saturday, March 11, Raymond McMurray, age 20, of Chicago, Illinois, a Negro soldier who had been stationed at Camp Sibert, Alabama, with the 166th Chemical Company attached to the 4th Regiment, was brutally murdered at the hands of Gadsden, Alabama, police officers. Copious circumstantial evidence, known to the public, leads to the belief that this incident ranks with the most dastardly crimes in the annals of Southern police terror. It is in light of the righteous indignation which has swept the Negro population and all patriotic citizens of this area that this letter is sent calling for an immediate and thorough investigation by proper authorities in the War Department and the Department of Justice. 3-20-44

"Raymond McMurray had been charged with criminal attack. He had not been convicted—had not even been tried before a court of law. It was widely believed that the testimony which caused charges to be leveled against him was contradictory. And there is strong indication that the soldier was not even in Gadsden at the time of the alleged attack. Further, more than 200 troops, Negro and white, had been rounded up for questioning, and some were still being held under suspicion, at the time McMurray was murdered. Yet officers of the law, having no proof of the innocence or guilt of their victim, fired seven shots into the body of the unarmed soldier.

"The public is asked to believe that, while being driven to the Jefferson County (Birmingham) jail for 'safekeeping,' the soldier lurched from his seat between two armed officers, Jack Fisher, chief of detectives, and Fay Bowman, chief of police of Gadsden, and seized Sheriff O. P. Reagan who was driving the automobile, by the head. And having swallowed this whole we are asked to believe that the three officers could find no other way to subdue their prisoner save by killing him.

"Sufficient information concerning the incident has reached the public to raise the demand that the following pertinent questions be answered:

**"Was Raymond McMurray handcuffed?** He had been charged with a serious crime. The 'peace' officers allege that they regarded him as a dangerous criminal. If the prisoner was not handcuffed, the officers are guilty of negligence in the performance of their duty. If he was, their story is patently false.

**"Exactly where was the prisoner when he was shot?** Seven bullets entered the front of his body, penetrating the chest, the lower abdomen and the front of his forearm. If, as the officers allege, McMurray had lurched over the front seat of the car and was gouging the eyes of Sheriff Reagan when he was killed, it would have been impossible to shoot him in the front part of his body without at the same time shooting the Sheriff. The bullets would have penetrated his back or side. **Where was the prisoner when he was shot?** Could he have been outside of the car on an open road, facing his tormentors unarmed, when they pumped his body full of lead? 3-20-44

**"Is there a conspiracy to profit from the killing of the victim?** Before McMurray was arrested, the City of Gadsden offered a reward of $200 for information leading to the arrest of the guilty party in the alleged attack. When this offer failed to bring results the amount was raised to $1,000. And eventually the Lions Club of Gadsden offered an additional $500, the State of Alabama an additional $500, and the family of the alleged victim an additional $300. Thus the total sum of $2,300 was offered as an inducement to people who might be seeking an opportunity to exercise their notorious anti-Negro bias. The offer of such an unusual reward provided provocation to irresponsible elements, among whom law enforcement officers constitute a large body in the South, to seize any Negro soldier, charge him with the crime, and then murder him in order to collect their blood money when it became clear that no distortion of the facts and the law could prove him guilty. **Is this what happened in the case of Raymond McMurray?** The known facts in the case project this question and demand that it be answered.

"This is not the first instance in which Negro prisoners have lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement officials of Gadsden, Alabama. In fact this is the fourth time in recent memory that the same officers have been responsible for the murder of Negro prisoners who were being held under arrest.

"And the citizenry of Gadsden is now being treated to the indecent spectacle of leading citizens publicly and brazenly congratulating Fay Bowman, chief of detectives for having done a brave deed. As though he had been responsible for the annihilation of an enemy unit on the battlefield!

"On the surface the story of the three officers sounds like a monstrous fiction. And law-abiding citizens are shocked at the indecent haste with which Coroner Jack deGaris of Pell City, Alabama, empanelled a jury to 'exonerate' the officers. 3-20-44

"Raymond McMurray cannot be restored to life. But if the reasonable suspicions of the bulk of the decent citizenry of this state are sustained, the men who killed him can and must be made to pay the full penalty for their crime. And his family can be awarded the damages which they are due. Further, the horrible feeling of Negro citizens that Alabama has suffered its first 'legal' soldier lynching of this war can only be assuaged if the questionable contentions of the officers in the case are subjected to the most painstaking and unbiased investigation by proper authorities. It is to be expected that the Department of Justice and the U. S. Army, which has never denied some responsibility for the safety of its personnel, will see fit to make detailed inquiries.

"As it is, the name of this state and the war morale of the people of the entire country have been dealt a severe blow. The requirements of victory demand that both be restored, and a thorough, relentless investigation is the first essential step in this direction."

# Policemen's 'Self-Defense' Alibi Ripped by NAACP Attorney

Daily Worker-New York, N.Y.

3-23-44

By Eugene Gordon

**The Gadsen, Ala., policemen, Jack Fisher and Fay Bowman, who admitted they shot a Negro soldier seven times allegedly "in self-defense" on March 11, "have a dirty record in the killing of Negroes under suspicious circumstances."**

**That was the emphatic assertion of Thurgood Marshall, noted Negro attorney and counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, yesterday.**

He said he had been hear- Fourth Regiment. Louis E. Burn- and helpless. 3-23-44
ing about the two "gunmen" ham, organizational secretary of the The soldier had been arrested for
for some time and that their Southern Youth Congress, in Birm- "rape" and was in a car between
record is well known to him. ingham, personally investigated the Fisher and Bowman, presumably be-
soldier's killing and sent a report to ing taken to the Jefferson County
The soldier, Raymond Mc- Secretary of War Stimson and to jail for "safe keeping." Fisher, chief
Murray, 20, of Chicago, was sta- Attorney General Biddle. He found of detectives, and Bowman, chief of
tioned at Camp Sibert, Ala., with the Burnham says, that McMurray was police, said McMurray suddenly rose
shot in cold blood while unarmed between them, leaned forward, and
the 166th Chemical Co. of the

Martin Popper, national executive secretary of the National Lawyers Guild, said the "shocking facts of this case demand immediate investigation" by the Department of Justice and the War Department. If the facts are confirmed, the killers should be prosecuted "and severely punished under federal law."

**"An attack on a Negro soldier or sailor in uniform is a direct attack on our government," Mr. Popper said, "and, in wartime, a most serious threat to the war itself. Only the most uncompromising action by the War and the Justice departments," he added, "will put an end to violence against Negro servicemen by civilian officers."**

## Slayer Of Waycross Policeman Is Slain Near Georgia Jail

Daily Worker
Atlanta, Ga.
4-11-44

BLACKSHEAR, Ga.— (SNS— A Negro, Matthew Milton, 35, held in the slaying of a Waycross police captain and the wounding of a patrolman was shot and killed after he is said to have attacked officers transferring him to the Pierce County jail, Sheriff Carter reported Monday.

The sheriff said two Waycross officers and state patrolmen brought the Negro here Sunday night about 10 o'clock for safekeeping. Carter said the Negro drew an ice-pick from his clothing as he was being removed from the police car and attacked the officers. The police shot the Negro three times, the sheriff reported.

Captain P. W. Farr of the Waycross Police Department, was shot and killed and Patrolmen William Coggins critically wounded Sunday when they attempted to arrest the Negro on a Miami, Fla., murder charge. R. I. Morgan, Waycross Police Chief, said the Negro was captured late Sunday by officers who found him hiding in a church. His body was returned to Waycross. 4-11-44

The victim was a former resident of Waycross, but moved to Miami during 1939.

An earlier release from Waycross said that the offiers from that city had taken the suspect from Waycross to an unnamed jail, for fear of a demonstration, and would not state where he had been taken.

## 4 Men Accused In Negro's Death

PM-New York, N.Y.
3-26-44

A grand jury at Houston, Tex., indicted four men—two former policemen and two Negroes—on charges of murdering a Negro, Arthur J. Gaines, 48. The four-count indictment accused them of beating Gaines with a rubber hose, striking him with their hands and feet and with a blunt instrument.

Gaines allegedly was beaten in connection with questioning about city burglaries. He had served three prison terms for theft. Detective H. N. Martin, one of the defendants, was dismissed from the force after the beating last week. The other white man accused was a former special policeman, and the two Negroes reportedly were police "stool-pigeons."

# Arizona Detective Held For Killing Negro Patrolman

PHOENIX, Ariz., May 10.—The killing of popular Negro patrolman David Lee Johnson here by city detective Leonce Navarre, which an aroused citizenry had feared would wind up with the coroner's jury whitewash took a significant turn this week when County Attorney James A. Walsh filed first degree murder charges against Navarre.

The county attorney acted after a cynical 10-minute deliberation by the all-white jury had absolved Navarre. The Negro patrolman, known locally as "Star," was shot and killed by Navarre after the patrolman had stopped Lloyd Simmons, a friend of Navarre, who had driven past a red light.

Navarre, in explaining the shooting, told the coroner's jury he acted in self-defense, though he admitted Johnson had not pulled a gun or even reached for it. The Negro patrolman, said Navarre, had merely lowered his right hand to his side.

The city detective fired twice, both bullets entering Johnson's back as the Negro patrolman wheeled to duck the bullets.

The coroner's jury whitewash aroused progressive Negro and white elements of the city, and a swift campaign got under way to bring the killer to justice.

County Attorney Walsh's action was welcomed in a statement by the Thomas Jefferson Communist Club here as an important contribution to the unity of the community against lawlessness and race prejudice. The club, in a leaflet distributed throughout the city, said, "The overwhelming majority of our community is behind him (Walsh) in upholding law and order."

## Say Slain Soldier Resisted Arrest

Daily World-Atlanta, Ga.
3-31-44

Fulton County Police Headquarters in the courthouse announced the killing of a Negro, Johnny Brown, discharged soldier, late on Sunday night by a police officer, Lieutenant Cal Cates.

The report said that the victim launched an attack on County Patrolman Robert Flournoy, in which the officer was injured, and was shot and killed by the lieutenant when he continued his assault on the Officer, Flournoy.

Lt. Cates stated that Brown attacked Flournoy after Flournoy had gone to his (Cates) assistance following an investigation of the victim for loitering.

It was said in the police report that Brown cut Flournoy with a knife and when he did this Cates opened fire on him.

Officers stated that the Negro ran after being shot, but that the body was found later in the night at the door of a Buckhead garage.

The World was not able to learn anything about the relatives of the dead man, who is claimed to have died shortly after the shot was fired into his body. It was not stated by officers whether there would be held an inquest into the shooting.

## Cop, Startled in Park, Fatally Wounds Man

People's Voice—New York, N.Y.
7-22-44

Sherman Josey, 54, of 249 W 136th st died in Harlem Hospital, July 11th, from wounds inflicted by a patrolman in St. Nicholas park, the evening of July 8th. Josey had been shot in the arm, hand, and spine. According to the story the injured man told his wife, Mrs. Emma Josey, he had gone to the park between 8 and 8:30 pm after leaving work at the coal yard on 135th st and the East River, to rest in the open air before going home.

Passing a clump of bushes in a deserted section of the park, he surprised the patrolman, who was not in uniform, and who was evidently startled. The patrolman, Josey stated, pulled out a gun, ordered him to halt and fired in almost the same instant, hitting him three times.

At police headquarters no information could be obtained on the shooting beyond a confirmation that it had occurred and that the patrolman had suspected Josey was about to attack him. The identity of the cop was not revealed. According to a member of the Josey family who claims to know him, the cop who did the shooting is a temporary patrolman, with a reputation for frequently getting into fights, who was off duty that day. 7-22-44

The dead man was known at his place of work as orderly and hardworking. He leaves a son, Pertell, 23, a discharged veteran of this war, now preparing for a training course to enter the police force, and a daughter, Julia, 19.

Mrs. Josey is seeking legal advice and may sue for damages against the city in the loss of her husband, and is anxious that something be done to safeguard innocent persons from becoming the victims of such accidents.

## Farmer Slain By Officer

People's Voice
New York, N.Y.

JACKSON, Miss. (ANP)—The victim of repeated threats at the hands of white neighbors who apparently coveted his 25-acres of rich delta farmland, 33-year-old J. C. Collins was shot to death here early Tuesday when he attempted to flee from a plain-clothes officer. 5-5-44

Witnesses believe Collins, who with his wife had just returned to Jackson after having been driven iff his farm by a group of white men, thought the accosting officer was one of the group who on several occasions had threatened to to escape after having been placed under arrest by Bigner. The detective said when he asked Collins to stop walking he declined. Bigner, who killed Collins, said he had simply wanted to question him, thinking him a suspicious character.

The shooting of Collins brought to light the fact that he, his wife, of cotton and corn. Mrs. Thelma Collins and another stated that one of the lins had sent a truck to his place to obtain personal belongings and two hogs he had planned to marketed. The farm is located at Byram, eight miles south of Jackson.

33b-1944

# Mississippian Driven From Farmland, Killed

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

7-30-44

JACKSON, Miss.— (ANP)— The victims of repeated threats at the hands of white neighbors who apparently coveted his 25-acres of rich delta farm land, 33-year old J. C. Collins was shot to death here early Tuesday when he attempted to flee from a plains-clothes officer.

Witnesses believe Collins, who with his wife had just returned to Jackson after having been driven off his farm by a group of white men, thought the accosting officer was one of the group who on several occasions had threatened to take his life.

Detective W. A. Bigner, who killed Collins, said he had simply wanted to question him, thinking him a suspicion character.

**THREE SHOTS PIERCE BODY** 7-30-44

Collins was shot as he attempted to escape after having been placed under arrest by Bigner. Three slugs were fired into his body before he fell dying on the street he could be given medical aid. Collins had no criminal record police admitted.

The detective said when he asked Collins to stop walking he declined and kept walking. He said he caught up with Collins and took him by the arm. A moment later he fired two shots both taking effect in the abdomen, and later he fired two shots both takthe third striking the fleeing man in the back.

The shooting of Collins brought to light the fact that he, his wife, Mrs. Thelma Collins and another woman, Miss Ruth Jones, had just come back to Jackson after his life had been several times threatened by groups of of white men, who drove them off their farm after they had completed laying-by a 25-acre crop of cotton and corn. 7-30-44

**PREVIOUSLY THREATENED**

His sister stated that one of the men had threatened to kill him on sight not later than Monday. On reaching Jackson, Collins first went to Justice Bell, and later to Atty. Wade in an effort to protect his interest in the crop. Collins on the morning of the shooting had sent a truck to his place to obtain personal belongings and two hogs he had planned to market. The farm is located at Byrum, eight miles south of Jackson.

As an outgrowth of the threats on his life, Collins had assigned his farmlands and crop to his at-

Although there was no apparent connection between his death and the crop circumstances, it is the belief of relatives that rear resulting from the recent threats, especially due to the fact that the officer was in plainclothes, made him twice attempt to break away from the officer after he had been placed under arrest.

# Police Killers Of Soldier Had Records

People's Voice — N.Y., N.Y. April 1, 1944

GADSDEN, Ala.—(ANP)—The record of the two gun men, Policeman Jack Fisher and Fay Bowman, who said they shot and killed a Negro soldier in "self defense" was previously a bad one, said Thurgood Marshall, prominent Negro attorney and counsel for the NAACP last week.

The soldier, Raymond McMurray, 20, of Chicago, was stationed at Camp Sibert, Ala., with the 166th Chemical Co. of the fourth regiment. An investigation of facts by Louis E. Burnham, organization secretary of the Southern Youth Congress, in Birmingham, sent a report of his findings to Sec. of War Stimson and to Atty. Gen. Biddle. McMurray was shot in cold blood, while unarmed and helpless, said Burnham.

McMurray had been arrested for alleged rape and was in a car between Fisher and Bowman, and was presumably being taken to the Jefferson county jail for "safe keeping." Fisher, chief of detectives, and Bowman, chief of police, stated that the soldier suddenly rose between them, leaned forward and tried to murder the driver, Sheriff O. P. Reagan.

**IMPOSSIBLE ANGLE**

According to Burnham's report McMurray, handcuffed between the two policemen, could not have risen and used his hands on the driver in front. The report stated that the soldier was shot seven times, and those shots could not have reached the stomach if McMurray had been leaning over the back of the seat in front and they sitting beside him..

"It is just another instance of the War Department's failure to protect its soldiers from vicious police in certain areas," Marshall said in comment of Burnham's probe. "The army owes Negro soldiers protection when it takes them from the north to the south."

# Texas Police Use 3rd Degree; Prisoner Dies

Plaindealer — Kansas City, Kan.

3-31-44

Houston, Mar. 31. (ANP)—A city detective, a former special policeman and two Negroes faced murder charges here Wednesday following the death of Arthur J. Gaines, 48, in a third degree beating.

The charges were filed by Police Chief Percy Heard a few minutes after announcing that he would submit the matter to the Harris county grand jury instead because of a continued probe. Here tofore juries in the south have frequently refused to indict whites in the murder of Negroes.

According to Chief Herd, Detective H. N. Martin and the other men beat Gaines with a rubber house to make him talk in connection with city burglaries. Gaines had previously served three prison terms for burglaries.

Martin was dismissed from the force after the alleged beating, and the police chief declared that forced confessions or any type of police brutality are "definitely against orders which I have issued in the past." 3-31-44

The two Negroes are allegedly police "stool pigeons."

# Ga. Justice

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.

**ATLANTA, Ga.—(ANP)— Accused of "loitering," Johnny Brown, en route home after receiving an honorable discharge from the army, paid with his life late Tuesday night, when he resented the questioning of a county police officer, Lt. Cal Cates.** 4-8-44

**Brown, whom witnesses said ran after he had been shot five times, was later found dead in a Buckhead garage. Police reports bore the customary story that the former soldier had sought to attack the policeman with a knife, although no knife was found on his body, no one was cut, and witnesses could not remember seeing a knife. The coroner, Mrs. Paul Donehoo, announced that there would be no inquest into the slaying, nor would any charges be preferred against the officer.**

# Mississippian Deputy Killed In Gun Battle

Amsterdam News — New York, N.Y.

**What Made Man Follow Deputy To His Home, Determined To Kill Him, Remains A Mystery**

9-30-44

CANTON, Miss. (ANP)—Deputy Sheriff Tom Plummer, of Madison county, and Woodrow Wilson McClure, of Canton, died of bullet wounds following a shooting affray between the two here early Sunday night.

According to reports, McClure shot the deputy when he followed him to his home after he had been accosted on the highways a short time before by the officer and questioned about the manner in which he was driving his car.

McClure, who was born in Madison county and spent most of his life here except for a few years during which he lived in Chicago, was visiting relatives here and had been in town about a week when the shooting occurred. At the time he was stopped on the highway, witnesses said, he had two girls in his car. 9-30-44

# U. S. To Probe Slaying By Policeman

Tribune — Savannah, Ga.

10-12-44

## WHO SHOT MAN IN THE BACK

ATLANTA, (ANP)—The United States grand jury will be handed the facts gathered by the department of justice in the fatal shooting in the back of Schnell Dixon, 16, by Patrolman V. H. Whittley, it was announced Saturday by M. Neil Andrews, U. S. district attorney.

Dixon, according to reports was fleeing from a outdoor gambling game after being surprised by Officer Whittley at the time he was shot. The .38 slug entered his back, lodging in his lung.

10-12-44

Officer Whittley was absolved of the killing when he contended young Dixon was advancing on him with a knife at the time of the shooting. It was not made clear by the officer just how he shot Dixon in the back while the latter was advancing on him. 10-12-44

Since the shooting several interested citizens worked quietly to obtain affidavits from various witnesses to the effect that Officer Whittley shot Dixon without cause and that he had not threatened the policeman.

It was revealed that after city and county authorities and members of state grand juries failed to make disposition of the complaint against the officer the department of justice, thru the United States district attorney's office here, was requested to take action in the matter.

# STOP SOLDIER KILLINGS ON THE HOME FRONT!!

People's Voice — New York, N.Y.

By FLORENCE MURRAY

LAST WEEK ANOTHER NEGRO SOLDIER met his death before he had a chance to prove his patriotism in conflict with the enemies of his country. He was shot down in cold blood by a white southern civilian.

7-29-44

In time of war Negroes, like other patriotic citizens, are resigned to accept the loss of their loved ones on the battlefields. Their deaths are inevitable, they feel, and for a righteous cause. Though their hearts bleed, Negro mothers are proud to wear their Gold Stars, which tell of the greatest sacrifices that can be made for one's country.

**Negroes will continue in every way possible to hasten our country's victory over the enemies of democracy, but they will not accept the murders of their men in arms on their own home shores. They will not accept the killings of their soldiers by ruthless, fascist-minded saboteurs in our midst, who put white supremacy before the country's welfare. They now demand a stop to these shameless deeds.**

The recent murder of Pvt. Spicley in Durham by a white bus driver is perhaps just another incident to thoughtless people, but to the truely sane, it stands for more. To them it spells the Nazism of southern bigots who, if they had their way, would permit this sore on the nation to become an eating cancer which would destroy the very core of the Four Freedoms proclaimed by President Roosevelt. To Negro and white liberals Pvt. Spicley's untimely death calls to mind the chain of brutal and barbaric attacks upon our men in uniform, attacks which have resulted in demoralization, mental and physical injury—and death. 7-29-44

One of the first of these famous—or infamous—incidents occurred in Alexandria, La., back in January, 1942, when three colored soldiers were critically wounded and 29 others injured in various degrees during a racial outburst. The War Department made an investigation and later issued a statement to the effect that the use of force was necessary in dispersing the crowd, and laid the blame for the riot on white military and civilian police. However, no further report was made.

In April of the same year, during a riot at Fort Dix (N. J.), instigated by white southern soldiers, two Negro soldiers were killed. Another investigation was made by the War Department through Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, top-ranking Negro officer and only Negro general in the history of the United States. The general's report was never made public and there the matter ended so far as the public has been informed.

**In cases of mob clashes, local prejudicial authorities have comfortably hidden behind the excuse that the killers could not be identified and therefore no arrests could be made. But what about those instances where the offenders were identified?**

What about the unwarranted killing of Sgt. Thomas B. Foster near Camp Robinson in Arkansas in March, 1942? The killer was identified and tried. He was a white civilian policeman, A. C. I. Hay. A federal grand jury sitting in Little Rock exonerated him. Foster's life was snuffed out because he dared to protest the whipping of one of his comrades in arms by a white civilian officer while a military policeman looked calmly on without interfering.

What about the case of Pvt. Jesse Smith, of Philadelphia, who was shot to death by a white civilian policeman in Flagstaff, Ariz., in August, 1942? According to the offender, Merrill Schrempt, Pvt. Smith and a group of colored soldiers started trouble when they were refused service in a restaurant owned by whites which was in a colored neighborhood. Schrempt said that the soldiers were armed and threatened him and other civilian officers. Five of the eight soldiers charged with committing a riot were sentenced to from one to four years at hard labor, while Schrempt, the killer, went scot free, exonerated by a coroner's jury.

7-29-44

**Then, there was the bitter case of Pvt. Charles J. Reco, who was shot down in his tracks because he was accused of the awful crime of sitting out of his place on a bus in Jefferson County, Tex. The soldier was ordered off the bus by the driver. After some argument, he alighted, and when he set foot on the ground he was shot down in his tracks by one of four policemen who attacked him. The irony of the situation was that the War Department after another investigation, issued a report stating that Reco had not even violated the state's jimcro law.**

Here and here, but rarely, the white killer was convicted. One case in point was that of the fatal shooting of Pvt. David Woods in the foyer of a Fort Dix (N. J.) theatre by a white military policeman, Pvt. James Greggs, because the former allegedly refused to move to the rear of the ticket line. 7-29-44 The white M.P. was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years at hard labor.

The rule, however, in most cases of Negro soldiers who have killed white persons was that they were convicted, and in many instances given the death penalty, although they were provoked into their deeds by southern whites and their pattern of racial superiority, and drew their weapons often in self-defense.

**Not one case of a white offender's being given the death penalty for killing a Negro has been reported.**

Take the case of Corporal Edmund Reed, who was convicted for the killing of a white military policeman, and sentenced to death in October of 1942. Testimony was to the effect that Reed was accused of being AWOL by the white officer, who attempted to arrest him. A scuffle ensued and the officer was shot. The corporal was sentenced to death.

7-29-44

In December, 1942, Pvt. George Iles paid with his life for the shooting of a white civilian policeman in Shreveport, La., during a conflict with the latter over his refusal to leave a dance hall when he was accused of not having purchased a ticket.

**This epidemic of the unwarranted killing of Negro soldiers by prejudiced whites was not confined to American shores. It spread to foreign shores, within the sound of shot and shell aimed at and coming from the enemy, whom the boys were sent forth to kill. Harassed by die-hard southerners who sought to change the liberal laws of other countries in respect to the treatment of colored troops, Negroes were frequently provoked to the breaking point.**

In North Ireland, Pvt. William Jenkins met his death in a street fight with his own countrymen. Many serious and smaller fights, some of them resulting in death, took place in England and Australia over the resentment of white Americans to the equal social treatment accorded America's brown servicemen.

In Glasgow, Scotland, a colored soldier paid with his life for killing a Polish seaman in a fight over a Scottish lassie. He was sentenced to death by a military court despite the protests of Britishers over what they considered a harsh sentence.

33b-1944

## Prejudice vs. Justice

Weekly — New Orleans, La.

A RECENT survey by a nationally known organization attests to the claim of civic-loving Orleanians, that their's is "America's Most Interesting City." True enough. There are many reasons for swelling with pride, nevertheless the Crescent City now suffers from a malignant disease which should cause local citizens to hang their heads in shame—law enforcement officers whose recommendations to the police force appears to have been a record on the police blotter. In the past two months three local policemen have been sent to jail on assault charges, and in each case the guilty officer was quickly brought to trial and sentenced. In each instance, assault was made on a fellow-citizen who is identified as white; however, we wonder why the same policy cannot be followed when said citizen is a Negro, particularly when the crime isn't merely assault but MURDER.

9-23-44

Public-spirited Orleanians of all races who knew and respected James "Stratty" Goins, late downtown market operator, who was killed in cold blood by Cletus Fleming, police radio dispatcher of the New Orleans police department, are wondering why the date of trial has not been set to bring the killer to the bar of justice for sentence and just retribution for his cowardly crime. Officer Fleming was indicted by the Orleans Parish grand jury on May 11 for the murder he committed on May 1, 1944, when they rendered a true bill of murder against him in one of the most ruthless slayings in the annals of the city. The case is still being widely discussed as to whether or not justice will be rendered.

When a policeman or any other officer of the law violates his "duty as a public servant of the people and sworn to protect them," he destroys the respect which of necessity is due the bona fide representative of the law performing his duty properly. This dereliction of responsibility breeds utter disregard for law and order and leads to lawlessness on the part of the socially deprived who have not the material comforts of our city and feel that their more fortunate brethren who are better situated use the "strong arm of the law" to keep them in their lowly position.

9-23-44

Denied their God-given "right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" guaranteed by the Constitution of our United States because of peculiar customs and practices of the Southland which makes "states rights" more important than the right of the individual, Negroes are most often the victims of police injustice. The failure of the district attorney's office to bring Officer Fleming to trial as soon as possible leads to further distrust for the laws of our community. We know that had the races been reversed in the Goins case, justice would have been swift and unyielding!

# Shot By Policeman At Former Wife's Home

Informer — Houston, Texas

9-30-44

CORPUS CHRISTI — Dr. Anthony N. Prince died Wednesday night at 11:45 from gun shot wounds received at 5:58 Wednesday afternoon at the home of his former wife, Mrs. Lois Prince, 1622 Comanche street.

Dr. Prince was shot in the neck, leg and shoulder. Charges of murder have been filed against Joe E. Lowry, identification officer of the Corpus Christi identification police department. Mrs. Prince has been charged with assault with attempting to murder. Both have been released on bond.

The shooting occurred after a series of domestic disturbances between Dr. Prince and his former wife, from whom he was divorced last June, having married again shortly after.

**Says Husband Destroyed Clothes**

Lowry was investigating charges of Mrs. Prince that Dr. Prince had destroyed all her winter clothes with acid. While working in the office Lowry heard a scream and a shot. On going outside Lowry was fired upon by Dr. Prince. A single shot from Lowry's service revolver struck Dr. Prince below the left ear and lodged in his neck. He died six hours later in the Spohn hospital.

9-30-44

**Doctor's Gun Fired Twice**

All witnesses agreed that only three shots were heard and four shells were accounted for by police, one fired from Lowry's gun, another from Lois Prince's gun and two from Doctor Prince's gun.

Statements were taken that night from five witnesses by Joe Alsup, assistant district attorney, and Detectives Rachal and Cliff Hamill. None saw the shot fired.

Doctor Prince and his wife, to whom he had been married for eight years, were divorced June 12 of this year, and he was remarried June 19. In the divorce settlement, the first wife was granted the house on Comanche street, but the doctor was given use of the office behind the house for a period of a year, Detective Lt. Ike Ellis said.

**Charge Recalled**

A month ago, Lois Prince filed charges in Jack Sutherland's Justice of the Peace Court against her former husband. The judge found him not guilty of disturbing the peace. The judge said that night that he made that decision because the woman had told him when she filed the charge that the doctor attempted to break in her door, and that during the case she had testified about an entirely different incident when she accused the doctor of pursuing her down Leopard street the previous morning, Aug. 17, when she was riding with an escort. She said she had gone to the police station at that time and had been advised to put the doctor under peace bond.

9-30-44

The morning before, Lois Prince reported to the police station that all of her winter clothes and household furnishings, which had been stored in a room in the same building with Doctor Prince's office, had been destroyed by acid.

Lowry went to the store room that afternoon to lift fingerprints in the room. He said that he found a number of pairs of shoes in the bathtub soaked in water and acid and found that acid had been thrown over all the clothes in the closet and cedar chest.

While he was making the examination, he said he heard a shot. Not knowing Doctor Prince, he did not identify the man whom he said he saw running with the gun. After he had fired one shot from his .38 special and saw the doctor fall, the officer said he looked at him, believed him to be dead, and went in the house to call the police station.

When he returned, he said, the physician was moving and was looking at him. He said he approached the injured man with gun drawn, and removed the doctor's gun from under his body throwing it on the grass.

9-30-44

**Gun Found in Bedroom**

The gun which Lois Prince allegedly fired through a window screen at the doctor on the walk, was found by Cliff Hamill in her bedroom. It had one chamber empty, he said, and he found an empty shell which fitted the .38 caliber gun in the garbage can in the kitchen. The gun was owned by the woman's nephew, Mose Richard, who lived in the house.

The bullet hole was found in the window screen, and two holes in the walls of the house next door, 1624 Comanche street.

Lois Prince was summoned to appear at the city hall again that morning when the investigation was continued. No charges had been filed.

"We are going to stand behind Lowry," Police Commissioner Ed Williams said that night.

Lowery has been with the force eight months, taking the position after he received a medical discharge from the armed services.

9-30-44

Dr. Prince, son of Dr. and Mrs A. U. Prince, Sr., was born 41 years ago in Sherman, Texas. He graduated from high school here and attended Wiley college. From Wiley he went to Meharry Medical school where he graduated with honors. At Wiley he was an officer in the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, president of the Young Men's Christian Association, and advisor to the younger students.

Dr. Prince came to Corpus Christi in 1929 and established his office on Media street later moving to his home on Comanche street. He was an active member of the AME church for a number of years and served his community and church with a deep sense of responsibility. Funeral services were held for him Saturday evening from the Saint Matthew Baptist church with the Jackson-Flowers Funeral Home in charge. Mrs. Hall read the eulogy. Principal speaker was Judge Woods of Sherman, Texas.

9-30-44

Dr. and Mrs. W. V. Hurd of San Antonio, Dr. and Mrs. Boyd Hall, Dr. William Anderson and Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Carline attended the funeral here. Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Whitter, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Haywood, all of San Antonio, and Dr. C. D. Friday of Seguin, called at the Prince home on the Alta Vista Road and also at the funeral home. Other doctors from all over the state attended the funeral Tuesday in Sherman where the burial was held.

Dr. Prince is survived by his wife, one brother, Paul Prince, Sr., and a nephew, Paul Prince, Jr.

# Justice Dept. Files Charge In Dublin Court

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

10-11-44

## Officer Accused Of Shooting Without Cause

WASHINGTON—(S N S)—The Department of Jusitce announced Tuesday the filing in the U. S. District Court at Dublin Georgia, of an information charging James Mitchell Bohannon, Chief of Police for the town of Summit, Georgia, with a violation of the Civil Rights Statutes in the killing of Willie L. Davis, a Negro soldier.

The information, filed on behalf of the government by U. S. Attorney J. Saxton Daniel, alleges that Bohannon, "acting under the color of law," shot Davis without provocation on the night of July 3, 1943. The police official had been called to a Negro roadhouse on the outskirts of Summit to restore order, the information states. After order has been restored, but while acting as Chief of Police, Bohannon "wilfully, unlawfully and without provocation" shot and killed Davis with a pistol.

10-11-44

In Summit, Chief Bohannon said Tuesday that he "felt a knife" in the soldier's pocket and that the soldier hit him under his chin and tried to take his gun, later advancing on him.

10-11-44

The action was authorized by Assistant Attorney General Tom Clark in charge of the Criminal Division, following investigation by the FBI and Army authorities.

10-11-44

In violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, and charges the defendant, Bohannon, under Section 52, Title 18, U. S. Code.

10-11-44

Bohannon was deprived of his liberties, because he takes jurisdiction of the slain man was deprived of life without due process of law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, and charges the defendant, Bohannon, under Section 52, Title 18, U. S. Code.

10-11-44

Bohannon "wilfully, unlawfully and without provocation" shot and killed Willie L. Davis with a pistol.

10-11-44

Department. The Federal government filed charges in the case.

C. Clark

# Police Chief Shot Soldier; Faces Trial

Tribune – Philadelphia, Pa.

10-14-44

DUBLIN, Ga.—The Department of Justice announced on Monday, the filing in the U. S. District Court here of an information charging James Mitchell Bohannon, Chief of Police for the town of Summit, Ga., with a violation of the Civil Rights Statutes in the killing of Willie L. Davis, a colored soldier.

The information, filed on behalf of the government by U. S. Attorney J. Saxton Daniel, alleges that Bohannon, "acting under the color of law," shot Davis without provocation on the night of July 3, 1943.

Monday's action was authorized by Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark in charge of the Criminal Division, following investigation by the FBI and Army authorities.

10-14-44

# Man Slain By Policeman Near Terminal

Daily World – Atlanta, Ga.

## Driver Claims He Was Attacked By "Tire Slasher"

9-13-44

Slain by an Atlanta police Monday night about 7:30 o'clock under the Spring street viaduct, near the terminal station was Homer Shelton, 40, no address listed according to police records in headquarters. The slaying went into police records as the thirty-ninth of the year, compared with 17 whites for the same period.

In making the report on the killing, Patrolman W. M. Cox, who stated that he fired the killing 39 bullets into the body of Shelton, said that he was making his usual rounds underneath the viaduct around 7:30 p. m. Monday. He stated that he was walking around the Atlanta Baggage and Cab Company buses to check them and as he walked around in the back of the buses V. S. Thompson, 29, of Central avenue, SW, a bus driver for the company, called to him to come there. The officer said that as he started towards Thompson he saw Shelton armed with a knife. He said the victim had Thompson backed into a corner formed by the plaza steps and the plaza wall.

9-13-44

**RUSHED TOWARDS PAIR**

The patrolman stated that he rushed towards the pair and that Shelton then turned towards him the bus driver warned him that the victim had a knife and that with open knife in hand. He said that he backed up several steps as the victim advanced on him with a knife, and that he warned Shelton to drop the knife. He said the victim kept advancing and that he pulled his revolver and shot once. The officer stated that after firing on Shelton the first at which time he fired again, this bullet taking effect. He said that Shelton whirled at the second shot, and fell, dropping the knife to the ground.

9-13-44

The officer stated that he then called headquarters and that Shelton was taken to Grady hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. It was not stated as to which portion of the body the victim was shot, but it was believed that he died almost instantly from one, or probably both, of the shots fired. Officers stated that a knife was turned into headquarter Thompson also made a similar report to headquarters, in which he said that he was near the buses checking on them because of recent complaints of tire slashings. He said that Shelton was leaning over a bus tire when he surprised him by asking what he was doing there. The attack on him followed, he claimed.

9-13-44

# Ga. Cop Kills Handcuffed Prisoner

Ex-former Houston, Texas

10-21-44

DAWSON, Ga. —(ANP) —Self-defense was claimed Tuesday by Howard Lee, local police officer, in the fatal shooting of Lewis Kelly, whom he had handcuffed and placed under arrest.

Officer Lee said he was called to quell a disturbance at a cafe and placed Kelly under arrest on drunk and disorderly charges. A chain handcuff was placed around Kelly's wrists, the officer retaining one end of the chain. Enroute to jail, according to the policeman, Kelly attempted to pull away and cursed him.

The policeman whipped out his pistol and fired two shots, one of them fatally wounding the mangled prisoner in the abdomen. No charges have been filed against the policeman.

# Grand Jury To Consider Slaying By City Officer

Daily World – Atlanta, Ga.

10-3-44

It was announced Saturday by the United States Department of Justice, through the United States District Attorney, M Neil Andrews, that his office had been informed by the office of the Solicitor General of Fulton County that the complaint against City Patrolman Whittley of the Atlanta Police Department, charged with the slaying of Schnnell Dixon, youthful Negro Atlantan during the past summer in the Summerhill section of the city, will be presented to the Fulton County Grand Jury on Tuesday, October 3.

U. S. Attorney Andrews stated further that his office will be notified and advised of the outcome of the presentation of Tuesday.

**SLAIN BY POLICEMAN**

Dixon was slain by the police officer following an alleged gambling game, and was said to have threatened the officer with bodily harm before he was fired upon fatally.

10-3-44

Since the killing several interested Atlantans have made attempts to have the case aired after affidavits were secured which attested to the fact that the victim was not justifiably killed, according to a statement made to the World Saturday.

It was revealed that after city and county authorities and members of grand juries failed to make disposition of the complaint against the officer, the Department of Justice, through the United State District Attorney's office here was requested to take action in the matter.

# Ga. Chief of Police Cited For Killing Negro Soldier

Tribune – Washington, D.C.

10-14-44

The Department of Justice has announced the filing on Monday in the U.S. District Court at Dublin, Ga., of an information charging James M. Bohannon, police chief of Summit, Ga., with a violation of the Civil Rights Statutes in the killing of Willie L. Davis, a Negro soldier.

The information alleges that Bohannon, "acting under the color of law," shot Davis without provocation on the night of July 3, 1943. The police official had been called to a colored roadhouse on the outskirts of Summit to restore order, the information states.

After order had been restored, but while still acting as police chief, Bohannon "wilfully, unlawfully, and without provocation" shot and killed Davis with a pistol, according to the information.

**No Action at Inquest**

A coroner's inquest was held after the shooting, but no prosecutive action was taken by State authorities. The case was then referred for action to the Department of Justice by the War Department.

10-14-44

The Federal Government takes jurisdiction because the slain man was deprived of his life without due process of law in violation of the 14th Amendment, and charges Bohannon under Sec. 52, Title 18, U.S. Code.

The legal actior was authorized by Asst. Atty. Gen. Tom C. Clark in charge of the Criminal Division, after investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Army authorities.

33c-1944

# Tuskegee Aide In Army Slain By White Bus Driver

Defender — Chicago, Ill.
7-22-44

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON — Another Negro soldier, this time the former assistant business manager of Tuskegee institute, has been shot and killed in cold blood by a Dixie bus driver.

He is Pvt. Booker T. Specely, who was brutally shot twice by a white Duke Power company bus driver in Durham, N. C., and left lying on the ground while the busman finished driving his route.

The bus driver is Herman Lee Council, 36, who surrendered to police and was later released on $2500 bond. 7-22-44

A wave of indignation by both Negroes and whites against the cold-blooded murder of the soldier because he "failed to move to the back of the bus" brought from Gov. Melville Broughton of South Carolina the promise that Council will be tried for second degree murder "by one of the ablest of our prosecutors, before one of the most highly respected of our judges."

The governor made a personal investigation of the killing and said that the murder charge will be laid before the Grand Jury this week "and undoubtedly a true bill will be rendered."

Trying the case will be Solicitor William Murdock and Judge Henry A. Grady, before whom the first Dixie conviction of mob leaders for attempted lynching of a Negro was obtained two years ago.

Specely reportedly boarded a bus in the Negro section of Durham in company with a female companion and sat in the middle of the vehicle. The driver told him to move to the rear which he did after some quarreling.

Specely is understood, upon leaving the bus from the rear at his destination, to have walked forward and called the bus driver a "lousy 4-Fer" who would be in the army if he were physically fit. According to the story told by the Durham chief of police, Specely is supposed to have provoked the bus driver when the former reached for his rear pocket whereupon the driver drew his gun and shot the soldier. 7-22-44

**Organize Protest**

The soldier was carried to Duke hospital where he died shortly afterwards.

Council, who said that he completed his route after shooting, gave himself up to Police Sgt. W. I. Barbee.

Council was released under bond of $2,500, signed by R. L. Lindsey, an official of the Duke Power company.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare is organizing a protest throughout the South, according to Mrs. Virginia Durr of Alexandria, Va., who is vice chairman. Mrs. Durr, who is a native Alabamian, and sister-in-law of Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, said, "I feel sure that all decent southerners will join in deploring the brutal and cold-blooded murder of an American soldier, an Alabamian from Tuskegee with a fine record. I trust that the State of North Carolina will see that prompt justice is done."

**Army Investigation**

According to the War Department, a board of officers is investigating the manner of the soldier's death, and another investigation will be made by the office of the Inspector General. 7-22-44

The Department of Justice is studying the case to determine whether the civil rights statutes of the United States will apply. If in North Carolina, as is true in many states, bus drivers are deputized as peace officers, the driver will be amenable to prosecution under the federal statutes. If not, then the federal government is powerless to act.

## NEGROES SEE RED

PRINCIPAL reason for so much unrest among Negroes today is the constant hearing from their boys or their friends in the armed forces of the indignities they suffer even though they are wearing the uniform of the country. A&C N.Y, N.Y

At a time when everyone is being urged to give his all to the war effort, and everyone is trying to make as many sacrifices as is humanly possible, it is no wonder that so many Negroes are dissatisfied with the democracy as practiced in this country when so many Negro youths in uniform are the target for undemocratic individuals and undemocratic practices. July 22, 1944

Latest cause for Negroes seeing red was the revelation that a Negro soldier was shot and killed by a bus driver in Durham, N. C., last Saturday night after an argument over the driver's order to the soldier to move to the rear of the bus.

According to information received by The Age, the dead soldier was Booker T. Specely, member of a prominent Southern Negro family and before entering the Army was assistant business manager of Tuskegee Institute, Ala. The soldier got on the bus in a Negro section of Durham and took a seat about midway in the bus. When the bus entered the white section, the bus driver shouted to the Negro soldier to go to the rear. When the soldier hesitated, the driver is said to have told him: "Go to the rear or get off!"

The soldier thereupon went to the rear, but remained only a short time when he signaled that he wanted to get off. As he left the bus, some witnesses say the soldier said to the driver: "You're a lousy 4F. If you were physically fit you wouldn't be driving a bus, but would be in the Army." Without further ado, the bus driver whipped out a revolver, fired two shots into the Negro soldier's body, and drove off. The bus driver later gave himself up to police and was released on $2500 bond for action of the Grand Jury. In the meantime, police picked up the fatally wounded soldier and rushed him to a hospital but he died enroute before receiving medical aid.

Shot down in cold blood was this Negro soldier. And he was shot down because he dared to talk back to a bus driver who had yelled at him and ordered him to give up his seat to a white passenger and move to the rear of the bus so that "white supremacy" could once more be satisfied.

The War Department announced this week that a board of officers from Camp Butner, N. C., where the soldier had been stationed, and the Inspector General for the Fourth Service Command, are investigating the shooting. We anxiously await their report.

The Federal Government should be aware, by now, that Negroes just will not tolerate their sons and daughters in the service of the country, being humiliated, shot, yes and even killed, merely because Jim Crow still is the law of the land.

Negroes are fighting and dying all over the world because they are fighting democracy's cause. It is time that democracy be extended to them, their families and their friends now.

# Killed Soldier

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.

# Speedy Trial For Bus Driver

7-22-44

WASHINGTON—Governor Len Broughton of North Carolina has announced that the bus driver who shot and killed Pvt. Booker T. Specely, former assistant business manager of Tuskegee institute, in Durham, N. C., last week would stand trial for second degree murder at the next regular meeting of the Superior court in September.

Meanwhile, investigations by the War Department, a board of officers from Camp Butner, where the soldier was stationed, and by the Inspector General for the Fourth Service Command are under way. The U. S. Department of Justice is also studying the case. 7-22-44

According to eye-witnesses, Specely entered the bus in a colored section of Durham and sat midway in the vehicle. When the bus entered the white section of the city, the driver, H. L. Council, then roughly ordered the soldier to go to the rear or leave the bus.

**DRIVER IRKED BY REMARK** 7-22-44

Specely complied with Council's request, but, leaving the bus soon afterward, told the driver, "If you weren't 4-F you wouldn't be driving this bus." Council thereupon pulled out a gun and shot Specely twice, drove on to the end of his route and then surrendered himself to the police.

Governor Broughton, after personally investigating the case, announced that Council would be tried for murder "by one of the ablest of our prosecutors before one of the most highly respected of our judges. The case will be laid before the grand jury next week, and, according to the governor, "undoubtedly, a true bill will be rendered." The case will then be tried at the next regular term of the Superior court meeting in September.

**SOLDIER UNARMED**

According to Police Chief A. G. King of Durham, Private Specely was unarmed at the time he was shot and was left lying in the street, where he fell, until picked up by the police and carried to the hospital. He died before reaching the hospital. King claims that the soldier made threatening remarks to the bus driver, a fact which was not noticed by any eye-witness at the scene.

High racial tension is reported at Camp Butner where Private Specely had maintained the respect of his fellow soldiers. Rumors are reported spreading about the city that Negro soldiers are threatening to shoot up bus drivers as they pass through Negro neighborhoods and that white drivers are refusing to go into these areas.

**RELEASED ON $2,500 BOND**

If bus drivers are deputized as peace officers in North Carolina, as is the case in many States, Council may be prosecuted for violation of the Civil Rights statutes. Council was immediately released on a $2,500 bond after giving himself up to the police. 7-22-44

Governor Broughton recalled the conviction of 10 members of a mob at Rocksboro, N. C., two years ago for the attempted lynching of a Negro accused of rape. The solicitor in that case was William Murdock and the judge was Henry A. Grady, the same pair who will serve in the trial of the bus driver. The former case marked the first time that a prosecution or conviction had been obtained for attempted lynching and Broughton says, "I think that trial throws some light on how the present case will be handled." 7-22-44

**WITNESS' VERSION**

A complete eye-witness version of the shooting reveals that the bus driver waited until the bus had reached the white section of the city before he turned to the soldier and abusively ordered him about a seat about midway in the bus. shouted roughly to It follows: The driver said nothing to him at go to the rear. "The soldier got on the bus in a the time, but when the bus en-hesitated, the driver Negro section of Durham and took ted the white section, the driver the rear or get off.' "Thereupon, the soldier went to the rear but remained only a short time when he signaled to get off. As he left the bus, the soldier said to the driver, 'You're a lousy 4-F. If you were physically fit you wouldn't be driving a bus but would be in the Army.' The driver whipped out a revolver, fired two shots and drove away."

# Disarm Dixie Bus Drivers or Give Soldiers a Gun Too

## Disarm Dixie Bus Drivers

Afro-American—Baltimore, Md.

AN EDITORIAL

The killing of a Tuskegee soldier in Durham by an armed bus driver suggests that the War Department take immediate steps to protect men in the armed forces.

The first step would be to disarm bus drivers. However, if the Department feels it can't persuade bus companies to do this, then it should permit soldiers to carry side arms with which to protect themselves.

7-22-44

It seems silly to spend Federal millions to train men how to fight and then send them up against armed bus drivers with nothing in their hands.

While awaiting action of bus companies and the War Department, soldiers might take matters in their hands by disarming bus drivers themselves.

If they must ride with potential killers at the wheels of public busses, they can guarantee themselves peace of mind and safety merely by taking the guns of drivers and turning them in to camp headquarters.

# Army Indicates It Still Is Probing Youth's Death

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.

### Findings In Durham Case To Be Given Dep't Of Justice

WASHINGTON — (A N P) — The slaying, last July 8, of Pvt. Booker T. Specily by a white bus driver in Durham, N. C., is still under investigation by the war department, it was announced last Thursday by Assistant Secretary of War McCloy. The findings will be turned over to the civil authorities, he said.

Pvt. Specily was stationed at Camp Butner, N. C. His death, from a bullet in the head fired by the white bus driver after a dispute overseating of the Negro soldier, is the latest of a number of such incidents, was followed by announcement of two investigations by the war department, one by a beard officer at Camp Butner and the second by the inspector general's office of the fourth service command.

8-23-44

At the time of the original announcement, it was stated that the army was very interested in the case but because a civilian (the bus driver) was involved, the results would be turned over to the department of justice

# Fruit Merchant Kills Customer On Peters Street

World Atlanta Georgia

8-31-44

### Argument Starts Over Waiting Turn In Stand

**BEATEN WITH 2 x 4 WOOD**

**38 CALIBRE PISTOL USED**

**RAN BLOCK BEFORE FALLING**

Police reported Wednesday At- Calhoun, 27, of 354 A Henry lanta homicides numbers 35 and 36 who was walking down Pe- for the year with Negroes as vic- street, wounding him in the times, compared with 17 white kill- rm just below the elbow. ings for the same period. cers said that the mortally They reporter that a Negro wo- ded woman after fleeing al- man was slain shortly after 12 noon a block fell to the sidewalk at Wednesday by a white merchant niel and Peters Street, and and that a young man died in icked up and rushed to Grady Grady hospital at 5 a. m. Wednes- she was dead on arrival day as the result of injuries sus- according to attaches of the tained from a beating about the tal. Officers said that Calhoun head with a piece of wood adminis- into the ambulance also to go tered him by a young woman late hospital, but got out after Tuesday night. g a block. Officers said that ad been drinking and left the lance for fear he may have locked up after his wounds been treated at the hospital ers later arrested Calhoun, him to Grady for treatment then arrested him on charges plain drunk."

Slain by the white merchant as- Mrs. straight razor on him, cording to police records was Morris alley cutting him Sarah Lowe, 27, of 511 SW. The shooting occur- that he ran back of a counter red at 351 Peters street SW. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady hospital after she is said to have been shot in the left breast left hand by J. W. Willingham of 184 Georgia Avenue, SE.

this revolver which was near cash drawer and fired at the once. He stated that she and ran from the store and that he followed her twice more while she was went wild and the other

at the wtih the 21, of the same address. Police re- on hearing a disturbance and loud vulgar language being used by a woman they stopped at the house to investigate. They said that they talked with Tom Perkins, 50 of the 218 Rear Butler address and that two Negroes and said he asked them to lock up the sus- They pect, adding that she had almost killed a man. Perkins told police informed that he heard a commotion and the vic- later found the woman in a room and the victim beating the victim with a piece of 2 x 4 plank. He then commenced to swear at him and she be served f "plain

Willingham told police that the "rage," pulled a tragedy, wrist. He said her and shot at fore he shot her. Willingham turn- said that he prevailed with her to refrain from beating the man but that she failed to do so. Following the beating, said to have been ad-

ministered about 11:30 p. m. Tues- lay. Perkins said, the victim was taken to Grady where he died early Wednesday.

33c-1944

# Grand Jury Refuses To Indict Conductor For Negro's Shooting

Birmingham, Ala., News
January 6, 1944

A Jefferson County Grand Jury which had one Negro as a member refused Wednesday to indict M. P. Crowson, streetcar conductor, for the fatal shooting Dec. 11 of Robert Brown, a Negro passenger, during a disturbance on Crowson's trolley at 17th Street and Second Avenue, North.

The fact that the jury had no-billed Crowson became known Wednesday afternoon shortly after the inquisitorial body delivered a partial report to Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler and recessed until Feb. 1.

Among the 37 indictments returned, however, was one charging Johnnie Mulkin, West Jefferson County sandwich shop operator, with first degree murder for the slaying of J. P. Creel, Empire, Ala., coal miner.

Both slayings occurred on the same afternoon and in the same part of downtown Birmingham.

Brown was slain as he attempted to reboard a streetcar from which he had been ejected by Crowson because of a disturbance. The Negro allegedly struck the conductor and shattered his spectacles as he was being ejected and attempted to get back on the car at the next intersection.

Mulkin was tried recently before Judge H. B. Abernethy in the Misdemeanors and Felonies Court and was bound over on a second degree murder charge. Preliminary hearing testimony indicated that Mulkin shot Creel after discovering him sitting in an automobile with Mrs. Mulkin on a parking lot at 17th Street and Third Avenue, North. Testimony during the preliminary hearing also disclosed that a few days before the tragedy Mulkin warned Creel "to stay away from" Mrs. Mulkin.

Besides the Crowson case, four other cases were no billed.

# Bus Driver In Durham, N. C., Held For Grand Jury

PM-New York, N.Y.
By JOHN T. MOUTOUX
PM's Bureau
7-13-44

WASHINGTON, July 13.—A Negro soldier was shot and killed by a bus driver at Durham, N. C., last Saturday night after an argument over the driver's order to the soldier to move to the rear of the bus.

The driver drove off after firing two shots at the soldier and later gave himself up to city police. He was released on $2500 bond and has been bound to the Grand Jury which will take up the case Monday.

A board of officers from Camp Butner, N. C., where the soldier had been stationed, and the Inspector General for the Fourth Service Command are investigating. A report is expected next week.

## Police Chief's Version

The dead soldier was Booker T. Specely who before entering the Army was assistant business manager of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The bus driver is H. L. Council of Durham, N. C.

Police Chief A. G. King of Durham gave PM the following account of the shooting:

"The soldier in the bus was trying to ride up front. In our State Negroes must ride in the rear. The driver told him to go to the rear and an argument followed. However, the soldier went to the rear.

"Later, when the soldier got off, he left at the center entrance but ran up to the front entrance and, according to what the driver tells us, made some threatening remark. The driver says the soldier reached in his pocket whereupon the driver fired at him twice. This was in a colored section, so the driver drove off and gave himself up to the police.

7-13-44

## Soldier Unarmed

"The soldier was picked up by police and driven to the hospital. He died just about the time they arrived at the hospital."

Asked if the soldier had a gun on him, Chief King said:

"He did not."

Another version of the shooting, attributed to Negro eyewitnesses on the bus, differs mainly from the police chief's in that it contained no threat of any kind against the driver. It follows:

The soldier got on the bus in a Negro section of Durham and took a seat about midway in the bus. The driver said nothing to him at the time, but when the bus entered the white section the driver shouted roughly to the soldier to go to the rear. When the soldier hesitated, the driver said, "Go to the rear or get off."

Thereupon the soldier went to the rear but remained only a short time when he signaled to get off. As he left the bus, the soldier said to the driver: "You're a lousy 4F. If you were physically fit you wouldn't be driving a bus but would be in the Army." The driver whipped out a revolver, fired two shots, and drove off.

Specely was a member of a prominent Southern Negro family. He was a graduate of Tuskegee, which is a college for Negroes founded by Booker T. Washington.

# Speedy Trial Promised in Negro Slaying

P.M. N.Y., N.Y.
7-14-44

## North Carolina Governor Acts in Murder Of Army Private

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The truck driver who shot and killed a Negro soldier at Durham, N. C., last Saturday will be tried for second degree murder "by one of the ablest of our prosecutors, before one of the most highly respected of our judges," Gov. Len Broughton of North Carolina told PM by telephone from his office at Raleigh today.

P.M. N.Y., N.Y.
7-14-44

## Investigated Slaying

Broughton made the statement after personally investigating the killing of Pvt. Booke T. Specely, formerly assistant business manager of Tuskegee Institute, by H. L. Council, the bus driver.

The Governor said that the murder charge would be laid before a Grand Jury next week "and undoubtedly a true bill will be rendered." The case will then be tried at the next regular term of Superior Court, meeting in September.

The case will be handled, both before the Grand Jury and later before Superior Court, by Solicitor William Murdock and will be heard before Judge Henry A. Grady.

## Mob Rule

Broughton recalled that two years ago a mob assembled before a jail at Rocksboro, N. C., where a Negro was being held charged with rape. The mob threw stones and bottles at the jail but did not injure the prisoner. Nevertheless, convictions were obtained against some eight or 10 members of the mob for attempted lynching and they received prison sentences. The Governor said that was the first he knew that there was a prosecution for attempted lynching.

The Solicitor in that case was William Murdock and the judge was Henry A. Grady, the same pair who will serve in the trial of the bus driver.

"I think that trial throws some light on how the present case will be handled," Broughton commented.

# One Killed, 7 Hospitalized In Racial Flareup

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

## Durham Slaying Being Investigated By Army Officers

7-23-44

WASHINGTON—(A N P)—Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis is in England investigating the racial outbreak between Negro and white American soldiers at Bristol on July 15, and will report his findings to the war department, Under Secy. Robert P. Patterson told his press conference last Thursday morning

Nothing more than a "preliminary report" had been received, Patterson said, and so he was unable to give any explanation of the cause of the flare-up which resulted in the killing of one Negro, the hospitalizing of three Negroes and four whites, and the arrest of several others of both races.

**BRISTOL DISORDER**

7-23-44

According to this preliminary report, Patterson confirmed that "there was a disorder in Bristol on July 15 involving soldiers, both Negro and white, in which a number of troops were injured." He added that "MP's were assisted by white paratroopers and Negro soldiers in quelling the disturbance." The city of Bristol was placed off limits for a period of three days.

The undersecretary also disclosed that two investigations are going ahead under army auspices in connection with the slaying of a Negro soldier in Durham, N. C., on July 8 by a white bus driver.

**DURHAM INVESTIGATION**

One of these is being conducted by a board of officers at Camp Butner, N. C., where Pvt. Booker T. Specily, the victim, was stationed. The other is being made by the Inspector General's office of the Fourth Service command.

"When the investigations are completed the results will be turned over to the department of justice for appropriate action," Patterson declared. "The war department desires to see that justice is accorded. Because a civilian is involved, we are turning it over to justice."

## Youths Freed in Stabbing

Times-New York, N.Y.

Four white youths, who were arrested last Aug. 5 after the fatal stabbing of Beasley Player, 24 years old, a Negro, of 168 Lenox Avenue, on Third Avenue, near 116th Street, were discharged yesterday in the Homicide Court, when Magistrate Peter A. Abeles was informed the grand jury had refused to indict them. The four are Ercole Ercolino, 17, and Carmel Belloni, 16, both of 204 East 113th Street; Vincent Iorio, 17, of 309 East 120th Street, and Albert Napolitano, 19, of 207 East 114th Street.

8-25-44

# Police Slay Husband Who Stabbed His Wife

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.
7-28-44

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—Sudden death struck in one place and narrowly missed in two other late Tuesday afternoon.

A Mississippian, Richmond Sheriff, 28, of Raymond, near Jackson, Miss., was shot to death by two Memphis police officers after he had dangerously stabbed his estranged wife, Mrs. Nancy Mae Sheriff of 258 McClain Street, Police bullets broke and unidentified man's arm as they shot at his wife for several months. She ed her.

Sheriff had been separated from servant's quarters. Sheriff follow

Soon a scream was heard, and the white employer investigating,

7-28-44

# Negro Man Shot To Death By Police Officer In Downtown Farish Street

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.
7-28-44

**FEAR OF PREVIOUS THREATS SEEN IN ATTEMPT OF MAN TO FLEE FROM OFFICER IN PLAIN CLOTHES**

JACKSON, Miss.—(SNS)—J. C. Collins, 33 year old Negro farmer, of 122 W. Church Street was shot to death by a plain clothes police officer in downtown Farish Street shortly before 4 o'clock Tuesday evening.

According to reports the shooting took place when Collins made a second attempt to flee after being placed under arrest by the officer. Collins was running north from Capitol Street on Farish Street when the shooting began, one shot taking effect as he reached a point in front of Thomas Great M. Store, another took effect as he staggered and slowed from the effect of the first shot, when he fell into the street, dying before the arrival of the ambulance. Later, Police headquarters said, according to reports, that, Detective W. A. Bigner, who did the shooting, said that he stopped Collins as a suspicious character. The detective said when he asked Collins to stop walking he declined and kept walking. He said he caught up with Collins and took him by the arm. A moment later he fired two shots both taking affect in the abdomen of the fleeing man. 7-29-44

The shooting of Collins brought to light the fact that he, his wife, Thelma Collins, and another woman, Ruth Jones, had just come back to Jackson last Friday, after his life had been several times threatened by groups of white men, who drove them off the place after they had completed laying-by a 25 acre crop of cotton and corn. His sister stated that one of the men had threatened to kil him on sight again here Monday. On reaching Jackson, Collins first went to Justice Bell, and later to Attorney Wade in an effort to protect his interest in the Crop.

This morning Collins sent a truck to the place to get his personal belongings including two hogs, after receiving written permission from the landlord, W. F. Farmer, on whose lands the crop is located, near Byrum, about eight miles south of Jackson. As an outgrowth of the alleged threats Collins and his wife, and Ruth Jones, had assigned their crops to their attorney Mr. Wade.

Collins had no criminal record, has been regularly engaged as a farmer, coming to Jackson to live with a sister at 122 W. Church Street each year after laying-by his crop, where he worked as a laborer until harvest time. 7-28-44

Although there was no apparent connection between his death and the crop circumstances, it is the belief of relatives that fear resulting from the recent threats, especially due to the fact that the officer was in plain clothes, made him twice attempt to break away from the officer after he had been placed under arrest.

# Strange Poisoning Fatal to Girl, 13

Call — Kansas City, Mo.

## Alabama Student's Death Mysterious

11-3-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—Police Tuesday were conducting a wide search for an unidentified white man, wanted in the mysterious death of 13-year-old Amanda Baker, a student of the Laboratory high school of Alabama State Teachers college.

The girl's body was found on the outskirts of town early Tuesday morning in a lonely road. Apparently she had been forced to drink some form of acid which caused instant death as indicated by burns about her mouth, throat and stomach. Fingerprints about her neck bore evidence that she had been held very firmly as the deadly liquid was forced down her throat.

A large bottle was found a short distance from her body. A chemical analysis revealed that it had contained a deadly poison.

Police attempting to reconstruct the crime assert that apparently the girl was picked up by a white man driving a black car as she was enroute home from school Monday afternoon. The girl was last seen on the back seat of the automobile as the driver headed in the direction of her home. Her school books and eye glasses have never been recovered.

11-3-44

The Montgomery branch of the N.A.A.C.P., moving swiftly, appropriated $225 as a starting fund to be used as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the girl's slayer.

# Carolina Bus Driver Kills Soldier "In Cold Blood"

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

## Justice Dept. Is Studying Case To Determine Status

7-16-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Another Negro soldier, wearing the uniform of his country, was slain in cold blood by a bus driver last week. It happened in Durham, N. C. He was Pvt. Booker T. Specely, of Tuskegee, Ala. He died from gunshot wounds in a hospital. The driver who left the soldier lying on the ground and finished driving his route, later gave himself up to police and was immediately released on $2500 bond.

According to the War Department, a board of officers is investigating the manner of the soldier's death, and another investigation will be made by the office of the Inspector General.

**CASE BEING STUDIED**

The Department of Justice is studying the case to determine whether the Civil Rights statutes of the United States will apply. If in North Carolina, as is true in many states, bus drivers are deputized as peace officers, the driver will be amenable to prosecution under the federal statutes. If not, then the federal government is powerless to act.

7-16-44

The case has highlighted the necessity of the enactment of pending Congressional legislation for protection of the life and property of army men. The bill, S. 221, was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Reynolds, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee in January, 1943. It passed the Senate on Feb. 15, 1943, and was referred to the House Military Affairs Committee on Feb. 16, 1943.

**BILL IS SHELVED**

There the bill has laid in a pigeon-hold ever since. No action has been taken by the House committee, headed by Rep. Andrew May (D. of Ky.), who raised objection to distribution by the Army of the pamphlet "Races of Mankind" because it quoted Army statistics showing some Northern Negroes superior in intelligence to some Southern whites.

Some Negro observers have suggested that the number of Negroes killed in the almost year and a half the bill has been in the pigeon-hold should be laid at the door of Rep. May. They insist that NOW is the time for Negroes to insist upon the enactment of the legislation when the two political parties are trying to win over their votes. The previous policy of "hush-hush" concerning the bill in the hope of easing it through the House, which has announced from some quarters, should now be discarded, they say.

# White Merchant Kills Girl, 13, In Charleston

Defender — Chicago, Ill.
7-22-44

(Special to the Defender)

CHARLESTON, S. C. — A 31-year-old white businessman who admitted killing a 13-year-old Negro girl with a shotgun blast in a local street here was committed to the county jail without bond this week.

He was James Elmore Cox, who claimed he was "slightly tight" at the time he fired a shotgun, slaying Elizabeth Bryant, a colored schoolgirl.

A coroner's jury—out only 20 minutes—held Cox responsible for the brutal shotgun murder.

Cox admitted firing the shotgun, loaded with buckshot, but insisted he was shooting at a Negro customer who had angered him in his store at 8 Line street, then fled into the street.

**Courtroom Jammed**

As the Negro out-distanced him, Cox said his anger rose and he fired in the direction of the fleeing man, killing the small girl who happened to be in the line of fire.

"I may have been slightly tight at the time, but I knew what I was doing," Cox said, in relating circumstances of the tragedy. At the coroner's inquest, the courtroom was jammed with spectators, more than half of them Negroes.

Several Negro witnesses presented signed statements to the coroner's jury, touching on various angles of the shooting. The slain girl's mother, Mrs. Mabel Barrett of 78 Hanover street, giving her version of the slaying, stated: 7-22-44

"That night...I was at home sitting on my piazza when I heard a shot fired. It sounded like a pistol. My daughter, Elizabeth, was out in the street...I went after her and was taking her back home. When I got almost to my house, I heard another shot as my daughter was walking a little behind me. Upon hearing the shot I looked around and saw my daughter down on the ground, having been shot through the head. When I looked back to Line street, I saw Mr. Elmore Cox with a shotgun in his hand."

Another Negro witness, Richard L. Joseph, 51, stated: 7-22-44

"I heard a pistol shot in the Cox store and a colored man ran out... A young white man came to the corner with a pistol in his hand. I heard him curse and he went back into the store. Then he came back to the corner with a shotgun in his hand. He fired up Hanover street twice, a third shot he fired across the street and the fourth shot he fired over where I was sitting on the steps, by Albert Coleman."

Assistant Chief of Detectives Frank T. McNeill testified that he got the shotgun from Frank Cox (father of Elmore) unloaded. McNeill said he found two shells in the street and that Elmore Cox admitted having the gun and doing the shooting.

# Quick Trigger Bus Driver Indicted

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.
7-22-44

WASHINGTON

While two separate Army investigations are underway in the fatal shooting of Pvt. Booker T. Specely by a white Durham, N.C., bus driver, Gov. J. M. Broughton of that State announced last week end that the driver had been indicted on a charge of second degree murder.

Promising a vigorous investigation, Governor Broughton said the prosecution would be handled by State Solicitor William Murdock, who has a reputation as an able and fearless prosecutor and who obtained the State's first conviction on charges of attempted lynching.

Meanwhile, Department revealed that reports on the two Army investigations, one by an officers' board and another by the Inspector General's office, are due in early this week.

Reports Due This Week

Meanwhile, checks with War Department revealed that reports on the two Army investigations, one by an officers' board and another by the Inspector General's office, are due in early this week.

The Department of Justice indicated last week that it would defend the AFRO the week would depend upon reports of Army investigators, although North Carolina bus drivers are policemen under the laws of that State.

3c-1944

# Manslaughter Indictment

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta Georgia

# Given Peter St. Merchant

9-2-44

**FULTON COUNTY GRAND JURY RETURNS VERDICT AFTER MAN ADMITS KILLING**

The Fulton County Grand Jury in session Friday, returned an indictment of manslaughter against J. W. Willingham, 64, fruit merchant of 351 Peters street, SW, charged with shooting to death Mrs. Sarah Lowe, 27, of 511 Morris alley, SW, about noon Wednesday in his place of business.

The woman, who was shot once in the breast and once on her left hand, in the store fled from the scene and while in flight Willingham raced to the front of the store and fired twice at her, one bullet from a .38 calibre revolver going wild and the other striking T. L. Calhoun, 27, of 354 A Henry street this much admitted to police by Willingham when he turned in the revovler to officers and a straight razor the woman is said to have cut him with on the arm prior to the shooting. She fell a block from the store and on being rushed to Grady was pronounced dead on avriral.

**TURN IN GUN**

Police in making the first report Wednesday said that they met Willingham at his place and that after he had turned in the weapons he admitted shooting the woman. Officers said that at that time the suspect told them that the woman came into his place and demanded to be served ahead of persons who were ahead of her. He stated that he told her he would serve her soon, and that she went into a rage, pulled the razor, cut him on the left hand and wrist at which point he raced back of his co... grabed his gun and fired into her body.

There were six evewitness to the tragedy, three Negroes and three whites, with all giving conflicting testimony as to the cause of the shooting and cutting. Officers learned from the Negro witnesses that the woman was threatened and shot by the merchant before she cut him, and one added that the argument started when the woman claimed to have been short-changed 10 cents by the merchant. The three white eyewitnesses told officers that the woman assaulted Willingham with the razor afterwhich he shot her.

Stating to officers that the killing was unwarranted and that the suspect fired upon the woman after words had been passed between them were. M. C. Patton, of 694 West Fair street; Mrs. Estella Clark, of 486 Whitehall terrace, and Elijiah White, of 291 Tranholm street. The whites who stated that the victim attacked the suspect were D. C. Lowe, route 1, Lilburn, Ga.; Eddie Reid, of 261 Bowie street, SW, and C. W. Patterson fruit stand operator near the scene of the killing, who said that he saw the entire affray.

# Bus Driver Kills

Afro American — Baltimore, Md.

# New York Soldier

3-25-44

ALEXANDRIA, La.—Pvt. Edward Green, 23, New York City, will not go overseas to fight Germans or Japs.

He was killed March 13 by Odell Lackney, 35, a city bus driver, who said that Green, who was sitting on the next to the last seat in the bus, had declined to move into the rear seat when ordered.

**Killer Had Club**

Witnesses testified that the bus driver first left his stool at the front of the car and came after Green with a club in his hand and when the latter still refused to move, walked outside, went around to the rear door, drew his pistol and shot him.

Green was a member of Battery A, 993rd F.A., Camp Livingston. John Green, 156 W. 166th Street, New York, his father, was listed as his nearest kin.

A coroner's jury exonerated the white bus driver, who lives at 3160 Monroe Street, and he was released.

**Soldiers Worked Up**

Colored soldiers at the camp were worked up over the incident but sentiment never reached the boiling point. There was talk of going into the town and taking it over but it soon died down.

# URDER TRIAL DATE SET

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tenn

**Five White Men Charged With Killing of Negro**

LIBERTY, Miss., Oct. 31.—(AP)—Trial of Noble Rider, 33, Amite County farmer who with five other white men is charged with the murder of Issal Simmons, a negro preacher, is scheduled here Thursday.

Judge R. E. Bennett of the Sixth Circuit Court, set the trial date and called a special venire of 60, after overruling two defense motions.

The defendants, arraigned Oct. 26, are, besides Rider, his brother, Narvel Rider, John Brown, Harper Dawson, Roger Dawson and Mann Dawson, all of Liberty.

They were indicted on a murder charge after the case was reviewed in Washington by Attorney General Francis Biddle who said that the negro preacher was slain and his son forced out of the state last March in a row over ownership of a small farm.

11-1-44

# Negro Cropper Slain By Farmer Landlord

Advertiser — Montgomery, Ala.

W. H. Jones, owner of extensive farm property southeast of the city, reported to the county jail early yesterday afternoon that he had shot and killed Scott Spencer, a negro.

Deputy Sheriff Hayden Sellers quoted Mr. Jones as saying the negro advanced upon him with a knife after an argument over the latter's accounts from the preceding year when he rented some Jones land. Mr. Jones was quoted as saying he shot Spencer three times.

10-28-44

Deputy Sellers, accompanied by Mr. Jones, went to the scene of the killing east of Greenwood Cemetery, and found the negro's body which was removed. Coroner M. B. Kirkpatrick returned a verdict of justifiable homicide after an investigation.

# Man Brutally Beaten,

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

# Left On Front Porch

10-27-44

(BY STAFF CORRESPONDENT)

ANDREWS, S. C. — Hezekiah Miller of Lanes, S. C., one of three men set upon and beaten by a group of unidentified white men in Williamsburg County last Sunday afternoon, died in the Hemingway Hospital Thursday, it was learned here Monday. Jumbled reports on the fate of another man say variously that he also has died and his recovery is yet in doubt. Authorities here said the case had been turned to Williamsburg County, in which the incident occurred.

**LEFT ON FRONT PORCH**

10-29-44

Information here was unsettled as to how Miller, seriously injured and unconscious, was found early Monday morning on the front porch of a white man, who immediately summoned police. Dr. W. D. Whitley, who police consulted, had Miller then unknown and unidentified rushed to the Hemingway hospital. Dr. Bowers of the hospital there, said Miller was admitted at 6:30 Monday morning, was unconscious suffering from a fractured skull. His identity remained a mystery for a day. He died at 8 o'clock Thursday afternoon, Dr. Bowers said. Funeral services atended by one of the largest gatherings in the history of Williamsburg County, were conducted Sunday afternoon at Lanes.

**SAW MILL WORKER**

The identity of the two other colored men could not be learned bue several versions agree that the three men had gone to a little station called Earl's, between Andrews and Trio, Sunday afternoon to learn where to report for work at a logging mill Monday morning, the place of work being changed for the new week. It is also said they sought at the same time money due them for wages.

Leaving Earl's the men were followed by a car filled with white men they paid no attention to, having not created "trouble" or "hard words" while at the logging place. Suddenly, the car rammed them from the rear while traveling the highway and the bumpers of the two cars became entangled.

10-27-44

Stopping their car and coming to the rear to observe the entanglement, the white men are reported to have ordered them, in abusive language, to unloosen the cars. Two of the men started immediately to do so and were set upon by the white men. The third man, sizing up the situation, jumped back into the car and drove away, leaving his companions to the mercy of the six or seven white men in the pursuing car.

Arriving in Andrews, he is reported as having discussed the incident with friends and a hunt was made for the companions he left behind. No trace or word of them came until Monday morning, when a white man opened his door and found the unconscious form of Miller on his front porch.

10-27-44

No one here knew the actual fate of the second man, his name, nor would they disclose the name of the man who escaped. All three, however, as well as the white men involved, are believed to have been residents of Williamsburg County.

**SHERIFF INVESTIGATING**

Sheriff Ed Parrott of Williamsburg County could not be reached Tuesday for a statement on the case but his office is reported as working on the case. One big question remains unanswered: What happened to Miller and the other man between the time they were left with the group of white men and when Miller's unconscious form was discovered several hours later on the porch. How long had be been there and, who put him there?

# Boy Dies After Brutal Attack By S.C. Whites

Defender — Chicago, Ill.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—Bru...

4-8-44

...witnesses said, was with a group of eight colored boys enroute home from a wrestling show, when about 15 white men set upon them. Fighting back, Ricks, Henry Ricks died Wednesday morning. After finding no weapons, the white men, 13-year-old Joe gan searching their pockets. ...ing at the Columbia hospital. ...gang hit Ricks in the mouth, knocking him down. Two more began ...Hicks, witnesses said, was with a ...ing him in the stomach and ...group of eight colored boys enroute ...kicking him in the side. Fighting back, Ricks, wit... ...home from a wrestling show, when ...nesses said, managed to get one of ...about 15 white boys" the majority his assailants down, but the youth ...of them in their late teens, and two

was quickly outnumbered by the white boys who began beating him in earnest. 4-8-44

Two unidentified white women pulled off the youthful attackers and while this was being done an older white man came up and kicked Ricks in the side.

Hicks, his companion said, complained of "feeling funny in the head" and "my stomach hurts a little." At home, without relating the incident under fear of being punished, Ricks complained of "stomach ache" and took a dose of camphor.

Hospital authorities said the boy's death was caused by acute heart dilation. No arrests have been made.

## Probe Slaying of Chaingang Prisoner

Call—Kansas City, Mo

### Say Guard Had Been Drinking

11-24-44

ATLANTA.—(ANP) — An investigation, launched by State Director of Corrections F. R. Hammack, disclosed Tuesday that a guard, who shot and killed a Negro prisoner, Monroe Zellner, 26, near the Monroe county chain gang camp on Monday, Oct 30, had been drinking on the morning of the shooting. The findings of the investigators were released by Hammack.

As a result of the department of corrections probe, Hammack said, the department is withdrawing all prisoners from the camp until "such a time as the county provides proper facilities for the central housing of prisoners and necessary custodial controls are established."

Hammack said that the department rules specifically prohibit drinking by a custodial officer while on duty within the prison grounds and that when the guard was taken into custody following the shooting he was in an intoxicated condition. 11-24-44

The department chief added that the local board be notified of a change of address only when the registrant desires his mail sent to a different address.

Because of the nature of his work as an FEPC examiner, Brown travelled about the country a great deal and gave his draft board his permanent New York address, the home of his parents.

Brown's case was taken up with National Selective Service headquarters and the telegram from Gen. Hershey ordering his release was the result.

Brown's difficulties over his draft status began on the night of October 28 when he boarded a bus to go to Kansas City, Kas., to hear A. Philip Randolph speak at a church there.

On the bus he sat beside a white passenger who immediately began to shove Brown as he mumbled, "Negroes are taking all the seats in the bus." The man finally struck Brown on the head and kicked him in the groin with his knee. Brown returned the blow. Brown was exonerated of any blame in this incident in Municipal court Friday, Nov. 10.

## White Man Sought In Poison Death Of Alabama Student

Philadelphia Tribune 11-4-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (ANP)—Police Tuesday were conducting a wide search for an unidentified white man, wanted in the mysterious death of 13-year-old Amanda Baker, a student of the Laboratory High School of Alabama State Teachers' college.

The girl's body was found on the outskirts of town early Tuesday morning in a lonely road. Apparently she had been forced to drink some form of acid which caused instant death as indicated by burns about her mouth, throat and stomach. Fingerprints about her neck bore evidence that she had been held very firmly as the deadly liquid was forced down her throat.

A large bottle was found a short distance from the body. A chemical analysis revealed that it had contained a deadly poison.

## MIAMIAN SAID TO CONFESS CRIME

Savannah Tribune

### Shot Woman, Dumped Body In Highway

Savannah, Ga.

### WOMAN WANTED TO END RELATIONSHIP

### In Order To Marry Her Negro Admirer

11-23-44

MIAMI, FLA. —(ANP.—The alleged confession Tuesday of 37 year old Theodore Roosevelt Ellis, white laundry worker, has cleared up the mystery surrounding the brutal slaying of 22 year old Addie Kemp Cunningham, whose badly battered body was found Friday, Nov. 10, alongside the highway leading to Hialeah.

The confession was announced by Detective Sgt. E. F. Deas and State Investigator J. W. Sheaffer, who conducted the wide spread investigation of the murder.

The confession disclosed, police said, that Ellis had been keeping company with the slain woman, who worked at the laundry where Ellis was employed. 11-23-44

Her body, badly mangled after it apparently had been run over several time by a heavy vehicle, was found by the highway. A 22 calibre rifle bullet wound in the left breast resulted in her death, it was disclosed.

Motive for the slaying, Ellis allegedly confessed to police, grew out of Miss Cunningham's expressed intention to marry a man of her own race. She had demanded money of him after informing him that their relationship would have to end, Ellis was quoted by police as confessing. 11-23-44

Police said their first clue as to the identity of the woman's slayer came when neighbors informed them that a white man had called at her residence and carted away her trunk and other belongings.

Ellis in his confession revealed that he had originally planned to put the woman's body in the trunk and throw it in a nearby canal, but gave up this idea when he fell and injured himself. Officers further said that he told sordid details of his relationship with the woman.

He directed police to a spot where he had thrown away her trunk and other belongings, which were recovered. The slain woman was the daughter of Nicholas Kemp, a pioneer resident of Miami. Police said that this case was the first of its kind in this area.

# Miami White Slays

Chicago Ill.

# Negro Sweetheart

Chicago Defender, 11-25-44

MIAMI, Fla.—(ANP)—The alleged confession Tuesday of 37 year-old Theodore Roosevelt Ellis, white laundry worker, has cleared up the mystery surrounding the brutal slaying of 22-year-old Addie Kemp Cunningham, whose badly battered body was found Friday, Nov. 10, alongside the highway leading to Hialeah, over here last week.

Clearing up a mystery surrounding the brutal slaying of 22-year-old Addie Kemp Cunningham, whose battered body was found Nov. 10 on the highway leading to Hialeah, Ellis, worker in the same laundry with Mrs. Cunningham, confessed to the murder five days later. Motive for the slaying, he said, was Mrs. Cunningham's expressed intention to marry a man of her own race.

The woman's body had been mangled several times by a heavy vehicle and a 22-calibre rifle bullet wound was in her left breast. Ellis said he had originally planned to put the body in a trunk and throw it in a nearby canal, but gave up the idea when he fell and injured himself.

Police said their first clue as to the identity of the woman's slayer came when neighbors informed them that a white man had called at her residence and carted away her trunk and other belongings.

He directed police to a spot where he had thrown away her trunk and other belongings, which were recovered. Police said that this case was the first of its kind in this area.

The confession disclosed, police said, that Ellis had been keeping company with the slain woman, who worked at the laundry where Ellis was employed.

Her body, badly mangled after it apparently had been run over several times by a heavy vehicle, was found by the highway. A 22 calibre rifle bullet wound in the left breast resulted in her death, it was disclosed.

Motive for the slaying, Ellis allegedly confessed to police, grew out of Miss Cunningham's expressed intention to marry a man of her own race. She had demanded money of him after informing him that their relationship would have to end, Ellis was quoted by police.

Police said their first clue as to the identity of the woman's slayer came when neighbors informed them that a white man had called at her residence and carted away her trunk and other belongings.

Ellis in his confession revealed that he had originally planned to put the woman's body in the trunk and throw it in a nearby canal, but gave up this idea when he fell and injured himself. Officers further said that he told sordid details of his relations with the woman.

He directed police to a spot where he had thrown away her trunk and other belongings, which were recovered. The slain woman was the daughter of Nicholas Kemp, a pioneer resident of Miami. Police said that this case was the first of its kind in this area.

## Miami has a "Strange Fruit" case

Los Angeles, Cal. 12-9-44

MIAMI — Pending a report by alienists on his mental condition, trial of Fred Ellis, 37-year-old white man, for the murder of his Negro sweetheart, in a real life "Strange Fruit" case was held

## White Lover Kills Miami Woman

Afro American Baltimore Md. 11-25-44

MIAMI, Fla.—(ANP)—The alleged confession Tuesday of Theodore R. Ellis, 37, white laundry worker, has cleared up the mystery surrounding the slaying of Miss Addie K. Cunningham, 22, whose battered body was found November 10, beside the highway leading to Hialeah.

The confession, announced by Detective Sgt. E. F. Deas and State Investigater J. W. Shaeffer, disclosed, police said, that Ellis had been keeping company with the slain woman, who worked at the same laundry.

Her body apparently had been run over several times by a heavy vehicle, but her death was attrib-

uted to a 22 calibre rifle bullet wound in the left breast.

Ellis allegedly confessed that he killed Miss Cunningham when she expressed an intention to marry a man of her own race and then demanded money of him.

Police said their first clue to the slayer's identity came when neighbors informed them that a white man had called at her resi-

dence and carted away her trunk and other belongings.

Ellis is said to have revealed that he had originally planned to put the woman's body in the trunk and throw it in a nearby canal, but gave up this idea when he fell and injured himself.

33c-1944

# Vile Details Told Of Contact With Deceased

Tropical Dispatch — Miami, Florida

11-18-44

Negroes and whites alike were somewhat incensed over the brutal slaying and the vile story which accompanied the confession of Theodore Roosevelt Ellis, 37, white laundry man employed at the same laundry where the woman worked as he told of his relations with Addie Kemp Cunningham, 22, of 1264 N. W. 64th Street in Liberty City. Ellis lived at 797 N. W. 30th Street. Addie's body was found on Friday, November 10, alongside Highway Number 26, 10 miles west of Hialeah. According to police, death was due to a .22 calibre rifle bullet wound in the left breast.

The woman's identity was established only after several hours had passed and her clothes were exhibited at a local undertaker.

It was learned from unconfirmed sources that the deceased woman had been keeping company with the white man for some time and he killed her after learning that she was about to get married and demanded a certain amount of money. Police said they learned that a white man had called at the the woman's house and carted away her trunk and other belongings. He said that he attempted to throw the body in a nearby canal but gave it up when he fell and injured himself. Officers further said that he told sordid details of his relation with the woman.

He directed police to a spot where he had thrown away her trunk and other belongings, which were recovered. The woman was the daughter of Nicholas Kemp of 1418½ N. W. 4th Avenue, an employe of the Miami Herald for more than 30 years.

Police said that this case is one of the first of its kind in this area.

Foolish young women should follow this case and let it be an example to those who would let money or "good times" take advantage of their better judgment. This is the only case that has come to the public's attention but certainly it is not the only case that is going on right here in Mi-ami. Your-ami and Their-ami.

It's a disgrace to the white race first and then to Negroes everywhere. Law enforcement officials will do well to recheck a number of these lewd places and the many collection agents who find it quite convenient to make such collections early in the morning before people are out of their beds and late in the evening. Scores of them have no regard for the purpose of doors to a home and they have a habit of getting "TOO FAMILIAR" with Annie, Mary and the like.

MIAMI HAS PROGRESSED TOO NICELY TO LET A FEW "LOW TYPES" from both races or any race (because all races have the "low types" as this case plainly shows) interfere with the splendid interracial feeling that is existant. LET'S PUT THEM "OUT"!! The farmer throws out the weeds in his garden and certainly the progress of the human race is much more important. WHEN WE FIND THEM — LET'S THROW THEM OUT FOR BETTER AND MORE PROGRESS.

THE MIAMI TROPICAL DISPATCH IS ASKING THE CHAIR FOR THIS CULPRIT AS IT WOULD HAVE HAD IT BEEN THE OTHER WAY. IT COMMENDS THE QUICK WORK OF SERGEANT DEAS AND STATE INVESTIGATOR SHAFFER — Fine sleuthing gentlemen.

# SC Man Killed After Asking Wage Due Him

Amsterdam News

N. Y., N. Y.

11-4-44

## Unidentified Men Beat Negro Worker to Death; Another's Fate Unknown

ANDREWS, S. C. (ANP)—Hezekiah Miller of Lanes, S. C., one of three men set upon and beaten by a group of unidentified white men after they had demanded the wages due them, died in the Hemingway hospital here Thursday. Jumbled reports on the fate of another man revealed that he also died, while some say his recovery is yet in doubt. The case has been turned over to Williamsburg county, in which the incident occurred, local authorities said. 11-4-44

Information on how Miller, found seriously injured and unconscious early Monday morning on the front porch of a white man, is still unclear. The white man is said to have summoned police. Upon the advice of Dr. W. D. Whitley, whom Police consulted, Miller was rushed to Hemingway hospital. According to Dr. Bowers of Hemingway Hospital, Miller had a fractured skull. His identity remained a mystery for a day. He died at 8 p. m. on Thursday, Dr Bowers said. 11-4-44

**Two Unidentified**

The identity of two other victims could not be learned but several versions agree that the three men had gone to a little station called Earl's, between Andrews and Trio, Sunday afternoon to learn where to report for work at a logging mill Monday morning, since the place of work had changed for the new week. It is also said they sought at the same time money due them for wages.

Leaving Earl's, the men were followed by a car filled with white men, whom they did not notice since they created no trouble or hard words while at the logging place. Suddenly, the car rammed them from the rear while traveling the highway and the bumpers of the two cars became entangled.

**One Escaped**

Stopping their car and coming to the rear to observe the entanglement, the white men are reported to have ordered them in abusive language to unloosen the cars. Two of the men obeyed immediately but were set upon by the white men. The third man, sizing up the situation, jumped back into the car and drove away, leaving his companions to the six or seven white men in the pursuing car. 11-4-44

The escaped man is reported to have discussed the incident when he arrived in Andrews, and a hunt was made for the companions he left behind. No trace or word of them came until Monday morning, when a white man opened his door and found the unconscious form of Miller on his front porch No one here knew the actual fate of the man who escaped. All three, however, as well as the white men involved, are believed to have been residents of Williamsburg county. 11-4-44

Sheriff Ed Parrott of Williamsburg county could not be reached Tuesday for a statement on the case, but his office is reported as working on it. One big question remains unanswered: What happened to Miller and the other man between the time ethey were left with the group of white men and when Miller's uncónscious form was discovered several hours later on the porch?

# WHITE MAN WHO CONFESSES KILLING GIRL; GETS FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGE

The Whip — Miami, Fla.

11-25-44

**GIRL KILLED, LEFT ALONG ROAD BY WHITE MAN**

MIAMI — Dragged out of her home late at night November 10, Addie Cunningham, 22, was taken to a lonely spot near Hialeah and shot through the left breast with a .22 caliber rifle by a 37 year old white man.

Miss Cunningham, an attractive laundry worker, had recently come in the States from Nassau. It was reported that she had previously lived with her parents in Miami, but moved to an apartment in Liberty Square, following an argument.

The man, Ted Ellis, was taken into custody early Sunday at 797 N. W. 30th St., where he resided with his parents. Several hours earlier Homicide Detective J. L. Deas and State's Investigator Leon Shaffer had established identity of the slain woman by exhibiting in the colored section of town, clothing found on the body. 11-26-44

The body was discovered along highway No. 26, 10 miles west of Hialeah. The confessed murderer of the girl was employed at the same laundry as his unfortunate victim.

Police said they learned that a white man had called at the woman's house Thursday night and had moved out her trunk and other belongings.

Through the efforts of county police, the man was traced. When first questioned he denied any connection with the shooting, but later admitted that he carted the woman and her belongings to the highway and then shot her because she made "certain demands".

He said he attempted to throw the body in a nearby canal, but gave it up when he fell and injured himself. Officers said Ellis told them sordid details of his relations with the girl. 11-26-44

After the confession, authorities said, Ellis took them to a spot west of S. Miami where he had thrown away the trunk and other possessions. All were recovered.

Committed to the county jail, he was held for investigation and indicted Tuesday on a first degree murder charge. Officials admitted that the case is the first of its kind in Miami police annals.

The girl was the daughter of Nicholas Kemp, who has been employed as a janitor at a while daily newspaper here for 30 years.

# Miamian Confesses Slaying Negro Woman

Houston, Texas

11-25-44

who worked at the laundry where
MIAMI, Fla.—(ANP)—The alleged Ellis was employed.
confession Tuesday of 37-year old Her body, badly mangled after it
Theodore Roosevelt Ellis, white apparently had been run over sever-
laundry worker, has cleared up the al times by a heavy vehicle, was
mystery surrounding the brutal slay- found by the highway. A 22 calibre
ing of 22-year old Addie Kemp Cun- rifle bullet wound in the left breast
ningham, whose badly battered body resulted in her death. It was dis-
was found Friday, November 10, closed.
alongside the highway leading to Motive for the slaying, Ellis alleg-
Hialeah. edly confessed to police, grew out of
The confession was announced by Miss Cunningham's expressed in-
Detective Sgt. E. F. Deas and State tention to marry a man of her own
Investigator J. W. Shaeffer, who race. She had demanded money of
conducted the widespread investiga- him informing him that their rela-
tion of the murder. tionship would have to end. Ellis
The confession disclosed, police said, that he had been keeping
said, that Ellis had been keeping company with the woman, the identity of the slain woman's slayer gave up this idea when he fell and
put the woman's body in the trunk
and carted away her trunk and other belongings.
Officers further
said that he told sordid details of his
relations with the woman.

# Bus Shooting Investigation On in Durham

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
8-26-44

**Soldier Shot By Driver Following Dispute Over Seat in Dixie Bus**

WASHINGTON (ANP) — The slaying last July 8, of Pvt. Booker T. Specily by a white bus driver in Durham, N. C., is still under investigation by the War Department, it was announced last Thursday by Asst. Secy of War McCloy. The findings will be turned over to the civil authorities, he said.

Pvt. Specily was stationed at Camp Butner, N. C. His death from a bullet in the head fired by the white bus driver after a dispute over seating of the Negro soldier, is the latest of a number of such incidents, was followed by announcement of two investigations by the War Department, one by a board of officers at Camp Butner and the second by the inspector general's office of the Fourth Service Command.

At the time of the original announcement, it was stated that the Army was very ineresting in the case bu because a civilian (the bus driver) was involved, the results would be turned over to the Department of Justice.

# Army Brutalities Laid at President Roosevelt's Door

AFRO-AMERICAN
Sept. 16.
10-7-44

## Ex-Army Chaplain Terms Spiceley Case Last Straw in Dixie-Inspired Humiliation

(Grant Reynolds, ex-chaplain, who left the army because of its segregation, and resigned his NAACP post in order to campagin against Roosevelt, tells also how colored delegation cooled heels in capital last week. In the delegation were Walter White, Dr. Channing Tobias and Mrs. Mary Bethune.)

By GRANT REYNOLDS

Any hope I might have entertained about remaining inactive during this political campaign was quickly dispelled by the recent verdict rendered in the Spiceley case.

Pvt. Booker T. Spiceley, a young colored soldier, was murdered in cold blood by a white bus driver in Durham, N.C., last July. When the all-white jury hastened to free him ten minutes before the hour set for the conference Pa Watson announced that Mr. Roosevelt could not see them. One of the group prevailed upon the White House to see the delegation the following morning. 10-7-44

**Could See Radio Stars**

As they cooled their heels in Washington waiting to see the busy President they learned through Friday morning newspapers that the President, who could not interrupt his schedule to see them, could find time to have tea with Frank Sinatra, Rags Ragland and Toots Shore.

Mr. Roosevelt needed no colored leaders, however important, to advise with him on vital matters relating to the welfare of thirteen million colored citizens. That is what his southern advisors like Jonathan Daniels are being paid for. 10-7-44

**Two Aims at Stake**

In the light of this, coupled with the deplorable treatment of colored soldiers, it becomes impossible for me to understand how colored voters can fail to cast a strong protest vote on November 7.

This will accomplish two objectives. It will teach Mr. Roosevelt that he cannot expect to trifle with the lives of colored soldiers and get away with it. It will also serve notice on any succeeding Administration that colored citizens will no longer countenance such willful disregard for their loved ones in uniform.

his slayer on September 22, my indignation reached a state hitherto without parallel.

For two years and ten months while I served on active military duty as an officer in this war, I witnessed first-hand the humiliation and debasement of colored soldiers.

What is more, I was on more than one occasion the object of similar un-American treatment. In each instance I did not fail to press for justice. The result was that a set of circumstances developed which finally led to my being relieved from active duty.

**Book Too Hot**

Since April 2, when my military career ended, I have been seeking the best technique for making known my resentment over the beastly treatment accorded colored service men.

I have even written a book revealing the sordid story, but because of difficulties in finding a publisher with courage enough to handle the story, it still remains in manuscript form.

The miscarriage of justice in the Spiceley case, however, forced upon me the necessity of finding a course of action which would not only articulate this resentment, but would set in motion necessary remedial procedure.

**Blame Due Roosevelt**

My decision was that, somehow, those responsible for the mistreatment of colored service men should not be allowed to escape the wrathful indignation which must smolder in the hearts of every colored citizen who has a loved one in uniform.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt, Commander-in-Chief of our military forces, must shoulder responsibility for this evil. Any logical chain of honest thought leads unequivocally to this fact.**

I further concluded that to perpetuate in office this man and the gang which surrounds him would not only condone the present abuses, but would demonstrate that colored citizens would be satisfied with such treatment for four more long years. For me this became unthinkable.

**Hands Tied in NAACP**

As a paid staff member of the NAACP, and knowing its nonpartisan political stand, I could not in good faith continue in my capacity as administrative assistant in its Washington bureau and at the same time play an active role in any effort to have Mr. Roosevelt defeated on November 7.

**I therefore followed the dictates of conscience and resigned. I thus freed myself to retire my moral obligation to colored men in uniform by contributing to the repudiation of their unworthy Commander-in-Chief.** 10-7-44

The lamentable murder of Private Spiceley should act as a call to arms for colored citizens throughout the nation. It should remind them that their loved ones cannot be protected against the barbaric treatment of lynch-minded Southerners who know that the Department of Justice is powerless to act in such cases.

The verdict in the Spiceley case is in fact tantamount to encouraging "open season" on colored service men.

**FD Kept Too Still**

Mr. Roosevelt could have discouraged this travesty on justice.

Some months ago the Senate passed and sent to the House a bill which would have made assaults upon men in uniform a Federal offense. House action on this bill is being thwarted by the chairman of the House Judiciary Committe, Representative Hatton Sumners (Dem., Tex.).

Surely in the interest of providing protection for his soldiers the Commander-in-Chief could have forced a member of his Administration to see that this bill was reported for House action.

It is unthinkable that he could order the death of American soldiers on far-flung battlefields and thus confess his inability to offer them protection as they prepare to make the supreme sacrifice.

**Cause for Repudiation**

If he is powerless to do this he thereby admits a good reason why he should be repudiated and thus lay the foundation for the complete reorganization of the Congress.

**Certainly it is time to rescue the destiny of America from the hands of southern demagogues and race haters who brazenly insult thirteen million colored Americans.**

A few days ago Mr. Roosevelt showed similar contempt for colored Americans in general.

A delegation of colored leaders had been invited to confer with him on Thursday, September 28.

33d-1944

# SOLDIER IS HELD AS JERSEY KILLER

Times-New York, N.Y.

## Fort Dix Private in Jail to Await Trial for Murder in Duck Island Cases

2-8-44

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 7 (AP)—Private Clarence Hill, 33 years old, Hamilton Township Negro soldier, was arraigned today in Hamilton Township Police Court on six charges of murder in connection with the six Duck Island "lover's lane" slayings that occurred in 1938, 1939 and 1940.

Hill stood stolidly as Recorder Willard F. Grimm read the charges, signed by Detective Capt. Thomas Simpson of Hamilton Township, accusing him of "willfully and feloniously" killing the six persons. The soldier's counsel, Frank H. Wimberley, entered pleas of innocence for Hill.

Recorded Grimm remanded Hill, who was turned over to civil authorities late last week by Army officers at Fort Dix, to Mercer County jail without bail to await action of the Mercer County grand jury.

The slayings, all of which resulted from shotgun blasts, took place on or near Duck Island, bleak filled-in ground along the Delaware River in Hamilton Township, which adjoins Trenton.

The complaints aganist Hill charged him with the murders of three couples: Mary Mytovich, 16, and Vincenzo Tonzello, 20, on Nov. 8, 1938; Mrs. Katherine Werner, 36, and Frank Casper, 28, on Oct. 3, 1939, and Mrs. Carolina Morconi, 24, and Ludovicum J. Kovacs, 25, on Nv. 16, 1940.

2-8-44

Miss Mytovich was found fatally wounded and her escort, Tonzello, was found dead in his car on Duck Island by the police. Miss Mytovich died two days later in St. Francis Hospital, Trenton, after telling the police that a Negro had shot Tonzello when he refused demands for money, and then raped her and shot her.

The bodies of Mrs. Werner and Casper were found by a Trenton junk dealer who was scouring the island for junk.

The police said that Casper, an automobile mechanic, had been killed by a shot fired from close range. Part of Mrs. Werner's right arm was blown off and the police believed she was running away from the car when shot.

The last of the six victitms, Mrs. Morconi and Kovacs, were found dead in Kovacs' automobile off Cypress Lane, three miles south and inland from Duck Island.

Hill, who was inducted into the army eighteen months ago, is the father of two children.

# Negro Tells How He Slew Librarian

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

## Handyman At Cathedral Confesses Murder Of Comely Young Woman

## Stuffed In Tunnel

3-3-44

## Catherine Reardon, 37, Is Brutally Slain In Vast Episcopal Church Edifice

WASHINGTON, March 2—(U.P.)—Police said tonight that Julius Fisher, 34-year-old negro handyman, has confessed that he killed Catherine Cooper Reardon, 37, comely acting librarian of the National Cathedral and stuffed her body in a pit in the church library's sub-basement.

Police Inspector Robert J. Barrett and Maj. Edward J. Kelley, chief of police, quoted Fisher as saying he choked Miss Reardon and beat her over the head with a fireplace log during an argument in the library, then dragged her to the sub-basement and stuffed her body in a narrow tunnel under a little metal ladder leading from the floor above.

He allegedly told officers he then "tidied" up the basement and the scene of the fight and left for home to go to bed.

Kelley said Fisher placed the time of the slaying at just before noon yesterday, some 22 hours before Miss Reardon's body, the slip and dress pushed up around her shoulders, was found in the blood-spattered sub-basement.

**Said Argument Started It**

According to police, the slaying "climaxed an argument between Fisher and Miss Reardon over cleaning up the library." It was established, they said, that the argument grew out of her complaint about his work.

They quoted him as saying he picked up a log from the fireplace and struck the woman as she fled for a window to escape. He then choked her and dragged her down to the basement.

Fisher was picked up earlier tonight in a restaurant in a negro section of the city.

Kelley revealed that he drew a .32 caliber revolver, fully loaded, when two detectives—Sergeants Dick Felber and Edgar Scott—sought to take him into custody. Scott grabbed his arm and relieved him of the weapon before any shots were fired.

The police chief also disclosed that when detectives went to Fisher's home this morning after he failed to report for work at the Cathedral, they found blood-stained clothing.

"That was why I was confident we had the right man all along," Kelley added.

There was no blood on Fisher's clothing when he was apprehended.

3-3-44

Police immediately began questioning him about the murder and announced his "confession" a little more than an hour later.

Kelley said he will be formally arraigned on a murder charge tomorrow.

**Was Clean-up Man**

James P. Berkeley, an official of the Cathedral, said he hired Fisher last December as a "clean-up man" around the premises. He said Miss Reardon complained about his work last Thursday and that "I had a talk with him about it."

"I told him to try to do a better job," he added. "He showed no resentment to my correcting him."

Miss Reardon, a student of metaphysics and astrology, had been acting librarian at the Cathedral since 1936.

Deputy Coroner Christopher J. Murphy said she had been choked and suffered two skull fractures and that either could have caused death. He said she had not been criminally attacked as was at first believed.

Lieut. Jeremiah Flaherty, chief of the homicide squad, said "we know who did it." He theorized that Miss Reardon, who had been acting librarian since 1936 and who did not return from work last evening, had been pounced upon as she sat at her desk in the basement surrounded by towering bookstacks and pointed, Gothic windows.

The attacker then, police believe, dragged the body, probably still alive, through the lavatory, down the narrow ladder and stuffed it into the wall opening.

The woman and Fisher were reported to have disliked each other. Police said that before coming to the famous cathedral the negro was employed by an extermination company, but was discharged for incompetency.

**Find Man's Undershirt**

Beside the body in the blood spattered crypt police found a man's undershirt stained with what they believe is blood. Miss Reardon's coat, purse and hat, normally kept near her basement desk, were found in the library loft by two co-workers who shortly thereafter discovered the body.

3-3-44

The sub-basement, with heating pipes leading into it, was used only for storage.

No weapon was found although Chief Inspector Robert J. Barrett mustered his entire homicide squad to investigate and to search the lush Cathedral grounds, which spread out over fashionable Mt. St. Albans. Entrances to the grounds were barred.

Two men, questioned shortly after the body was found by fellow workers early this morning, were released.

The victim had been missing since 6 p.m. yesterday. She often worked by herself in the lonely library cellar, surrounded by pholosophical and theological books for which she had a great fondness. Friends described her as having two loves—her mother Mrs. W. M. Reardon, Jr., with whom she lives, and the study of metaphysics.

**Termed Self Poor Fish**

Miss Reardon, despite her sparkling brown eyes and obvious attractiveness, described herself as "a poor fish," alluding to the fact that she was born under the Zodiacal sign of Pisces. The murdered woman was said to have dabbled in the study of astrology and occasionally to have complained of loneliness.

Mrs Reardon, who has been ill, told police her daughter appeared despondent when she left home late yesterday but friends said she was generally cheerful and lively. Police had been searching for her since her aunt, Corinne Reardon, notified them at 1:15 a.m. that she was missing.

# Boy, 14, Charged With Murdering Two White Girls

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

MANNING, S. C.— (SNS— Geo. Stiney, Jr., 14-year-old high school pupil, was charged Thursday with murdering two small white girls of Alcolu in warrants sworn out by Coroner C. M. Thigpen. A coroner jury decided at an inquest Wednesday night that the white children came to their deaths at the hands of the colored boy.

3-31-44

Deputy Sheriff H. S. Newman read a statement which he said Stiney had signed admitting that he beat the girls to death with a railroad spike after coming upon them picking flowers about a mile from their homes last Friday. Their bodies were found in a ditch Saturday morning.

# Negro Shoots Patrolman And Kills Police Captain

News-Birmingham, Ala.

WAYCROSS, Ga.— (AP) —Capt. Pierce W. Farr, of the Waycross Police Department, was shot and killed and Patrolman Bill Coggins critically wounded by a Negro the officers attempted to arrest on a Miami murder charge.

4-10-44

Police Chief R. I. Morgan identified the Negro as Matthew Milton and said he shot the officers early Sunday morning as they approached Milton's former home here. Morgan said the Negro escaped in the darkness but was found hiding in a Negro church several hours later.

"As Coggins approached the house," Chief Morgan said, "The Negro fired from behind a post with a shotgun, seriously wounding him. Capt. Farr then came running up and was killed."

State troopers and county police removed the Negro to a jail outside the county.

4-10-44

The Negro was shot and killed at Blackshear, Ga., after he attacked officers transferring him to the Pierce County Jail, Sheriff H. M. Carter reported Monday.

Sheriff Carter said the Negro drew an ice-pick from his clothing as he was being removed from the police car and attacked the officers. The officers shot the Negro three times, the sheriff reported.

# KILLER WHOM TIRE BETRAYED GETS 199 YEARS

Daily Tribune Chicago, Ill.

5-23-44

Oliver Wendell Martin, 21, Negro, was sentenced to 199 years in prison yesterday by Judge Francis B. Allegretti in Criminal court for the murder March 14 of Carl Braband, 38, of 3807 S. Grove av., Berwyn, an insurance collector.

He was traced thru a tire that he removed from his victim's automobile and put on another automobile belonging to a relative.

5-23-44

Martin admitted he shot Braband in the latter's car in Palos township, but said the revolver had been discharged accidentally while the two were struggling for it.

The defendant was accused of forcibly entering Braband's car while the collector was at work on the south side, robbing him of $51, and forcing him to drive to Palos township. Braband's body was dumped beside the road, and Martin drove his car back to Chicago.

# KILLER OF STORE OWNER GETS 147 YEARS IN PRISON

Daily Tribune Chicago, Ill.

Judge Harold G. Ward in Criminal court yesterday sentenced John Carr Adams, 40, Negro, 3621 State st., to 147 years in prison on Adams' plea of guilty of the murder last Feb. 4 of Joseph Kramer, 63, owner of a paint store at 547 E. 63d st. Kramer's daughter, Jeanette, 25, testified that Adams entered the store and ordered a paint brush. While she was wrapping the brush, she said, the Negro strode over to her father, who was seated in a chair, and threatened him with a revolver.

5-23-44

He took $30 from her father, the witness said, and ordered him to open up the cash drawer. Instead of removing money from the drawer, Kramer jerked out a gun, she said, and fired four shots at Adams. two of which struck him in the leg. Adams returned the fire and fatally

# Soldier Held for Jury in Lovers' Lane Murders

Sun-Baltimore, Md. 2-12-44

## Six Lovers Fail to Find Shotgun; Residents of Both Races Believe Pvt. Hill Innocent

Afro-American

TRENTON, N.J.—Clarence Hill, Army private who had his eyes

• Police Fa

2-12-44

get on a sergeant's stripes until Mercer County authorities accused him of being the Duck Island lovers' lane slayer of six persons, was arraigned in Recorder William F. Grimm's court on Monday and held for the grand jury on all six counts.

The 33-year-old resident of Hamilton Township near here was arraigned after county police and workmen dug without results in the cellar at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Hill, and combed the woods in search of a shotgun.

**"Confession" Cited**

Police and Prosecutor Walter D. Cougle maintained that Hill had signed statements which constitute a confession, but Frank Wimberley and Robert Queen, his attorneys, said that first impressions indicated to them that he is innocent.

They talked with Hill in jail here a short time on Monday before the arraignment. They found that he had been held incommunicado at the police detention pen since Thursday.

The lawyers were threatening to obtain a writ of habeas corpus to bring Hill into court just before authorities decided to enter the charges formally.

**Believed Innocent**

General opinion in Hamilton Township is that Hill is innocent, and that belief is extended to many white citizens.

All the killings were committed between November 8, 1938, and November 16, 1940.

The victims, all of whom were killed with a shotgun, were Miss Mary Mvatovic, 15, and her married friend, Vincenzo Tonzillo; Mrs. Katherine Werner, 37, and her neighbor, Frank J. Kasper, and Mrs. Caroline Mariconi, 24, and Louis Kovaca. All were white.

PVT. CLARENCE HILL

## Soldier Takes Oath—Denies Duck Island Slaying

CLARENCE HILL, 33, Hamilton Township soldier, shown above with hand upraised to take oath to tell the truth in court, pleaded innocent last week when arraigned in police court in Trenton, N. J., on six charges of murder based on the shotgun killings of three couples in Duck Island Lovers' Lane, a few miles below Trenton, in 1938, 1939 and 1940. In the above photo, from left to right, are: Recorder Willard F. Grimm, Patrolman Harry Michalis, Captain Thomas Simpson, David Kelsey, assistant Mercer County prosecutor, Patrolman Harvey Wyckoff, Robert Queen (partly obscured), assistant defense attorney, Hill, and Frank H. Wimberley, defense attorney. Although Hill is in his army uniform, his tie, belt and shoelaces had been removed. —INS Photo

## Boy, 14, Executed For Killing 2 Girls In South Carolina

Columbia, S. C., June 15 (AP)—A 14-year-old Negro boy was put to death in the State's electric chair today for the confessed slaying of two young white girls of Alcolu, who were fatally beaten with a heavy railroad spike while they were out picking wild flowers.

The Negro, George Junius Stinney, Jr., declined to make any statement before going to his death. He was the youngest person ever to die in the electric chair here.

Several organizations had asked commutation of the death sentence on account of his age but Gov. Olin D. Johnston refused to intervene.

## Scheduled Execution Of Negro, 14, Opposed

SUMTER, S. C.—(AP)—A protest scheduled execution of a 14-year-old Negro boy for slaying a white girl has been filed by the South Carolina Chapter, National Association for Advancement of Colored people with Gov. Olin D. Johnston against the execution of one of two girls, 11 and 8 years old, who were beaten to death with a railroad spike.

The state meeting here of the association telegraphed the governor that Stinney's execution would be a "blot" on South Carolina's record.

The governor said Friday he had studied the case and found no reason to intervene, making this statement after the CIO Tobacco Workers Union, the National Maritime Union, and the White and Negro Ministerial Unions at Charleston asked him to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

## NEGRO KILLER MOVED INTO KILBY DEATH ROW

Joe Vernon, Negro, twice sentenced to the death chair, was removed from the County Jail today to the death row at Kilby Prison in Montgomery. Chief Deputy Sheriff Wilton Hogan transferred the prisoner.

Vernon was convicted of the murder in 1937 of Ben Montgomery, Woodlawn High School football player, in the holdup of a filling station where the youth worked.

The U. S. Supreme Court reversed the verdict on the grounds there were no Negroes on the list of grand jurors who indicted Vernon and no Negroes' names in the petit jury box.

Convicted a second time, the case went to the Alabama Supreme Court which last week upheld the conviction, making the transfer of the Negro to Kilby mandatory.

**DEATH PENALTY UPHELD**

SALEM, Ore., June 20 (AP)—The Oregon Supreme Court today upheld the conviction and death penalty imposed on Robert E. Lee Folkes, young Negro dance car cook for the "Lower 48" slaying of Mrs. Martha Virginia James of Norfolk, Va., in January, 1943.

## Unions Protest Chair for Boy, 14

*Special Correspondence*

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 12.—White and Negro organizations, including labor unions, have protested the conviction of George Junius Stiney, 14, who is under sentence to die June 16 in the electric chair for the muder of an 11-year-year-old wihte girl in an attempted rape. The groups charge that Ernest Feltwell, of Parris, a white youth, got off with 20 years because he was given "every legal protection," whereas Stiney, a Negro, was "railroaded" through the courts.

## Soldier to Hang For Killing Girl

*By the Associated Press.*

SAN ANGELO, Texas, June 10.—A general court-martial has found Pvt. Sylvester Davis guilty of murder in connection with the slaying of 20-year-old Peggy Lou Arnold. The San Angelo army airfield court sentenced the Peoria, Ill., Negro to death by hanging.

Miss Arnold, a telephone operator, was attacked and beaten May 28. She died three days later.

## Negro Doomed For Killing Girl Hopes For New 'Miracle'

Once snatched from the electric chair less than a minute before he was to be electrocuted, Joe Vernon, 37, Negro, still has a chance of escaping the death penalty that awaits him July 7.

Vernon, charged with the murder of Ben Montgomery, Wood-High School football player in a holdup of the filling sta- where the youth worked, has in jail since 1938.

After Vernon's first conviction, the case was reversed and a new trial granted by the U. S. Supreme Court. Grounds for reversal were that a confession signed by Vernon was presented to him by Officers Bulgarin, Weir, Johnson and Gorman, while he was in the frequently upheld his death sentence from his second trial, but Walter Bible regularly preaches to Negro prisoners in County Jail here.

Vernon's attorney, S. Smith, application for a adjourns June 30 to rule on the that time.

Kilby Prison

**Verdict Reversed**

When his appeal went to the Supreme Court, Vernon had a Bible and it went brutality.

33d-1944

## Negroes' Execution Dates Are Scheduled

News—Birmingham, Ala.
6-6-44

JACKSON, Miss.—(AP)—The Mississippi State Supreme Court set dates Monday for executions of Austin Crews and George Thornton, Negroes, both sentenced to death for murder.

The court in acting on the appeal of Thornton, convicted of the shotgun killing of his former employe, Roy Harrell, of Rankin County, set the execution for Thursday, June 20.

Witnesses had testified that Thornton, a Negro soldier, home on furlough, had "thrown away Harrell's purse, while Thornton in a written statement accepted as evidence by the court, said, "I don't know whether or not I killed and robbed Mr. Harrell. I had been riding with him and was drunk. I guess I must have as no one else was there and I had the $495 he had on him." 6-6-44

Crews, sentenced, a court opinion said, for the murder of Etta Summers, another Negro, is to be executed June 27.

## FOUND GUILTY OF 22 MURDERS IN HOTEL FIRE

Tribune—Chicago Ill.
8-5-44

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 4 (AP).—Leon Holman, 47, Negro cafe proprietor, was found guilty last night on 22 counts of murder in the first degree for setting the fire which destroyed the New Amsterdam hotel March 28.

Twenty-two persons, many of them war workers, lost their lives in the blaze.

The jury recommended a life sentence for Holman.

"No matter what any one else may think, God knows I am not guilty," Holman told the court after the verdict was read.

Superior Judge Edward Murphy said the 22 sentences to life imprisonment could run either consecutively or concurrently, but did not indicate which way the sentences would be imposed. The state had asked the death penalty, alleging Holman had "maliciously set fire to the hotel." No motive for setting the fire was brought out in the testimony.

## White Sailor Stabbed In Argument At Lakes

Inquirer—Philadelphia, Pa.
10-21-44

GREAT LAKES, Ill.—(AP)—Eugene R. Roberts, 19, white coxswain of Miami, was fatally stabbed here Friday during an altercation with Henry Combs, Walston, 19, steward's mate, second class, of Lexington, Ky. Walston is being held in custody pending investigation.

According to details released by the commandant of the 9th Naval district, there is no evidence that the slaying was anything but a man to man affair. There is no evidence of riot implications as a result of the crime, the commandant announced.

### NINE SOLDIERS GET LIFE

THATCHAM, England, Nov. 10 (AP)—Nine American Negro soldiers were sentenced to life imprisonment by a U. S. Army court-martial Friday on murder charges over the shooting of an Englishman, an American military policeman and a soldier early in October. A 10th soldier was acquitted of murder but sentenced to 10 years hard labor for being absent without leave.

## Bryant Is Given Death Sentence For Third Time in 1939 Slaying

Telegraph—Macon, Ga.
10-13-44

Willie Bryant, Negro, convicted on a charge of murder, received the death sentence for the third time yesterday in Bibb Superior court when Judge Mallory Atkinson sentenced him to die in the electric chair on October 31, according to Solicitor General Charles L. Garrett.

Bryant was convicted on a charge of the murder, in 1940, of Zack Trice, white man, at a local oil company where Trice was employed, he said.

Arrested in 1939, Bryant was convicted in Bibb superior court, but was granted a new trial by the supreme court of Georgia on the grounds that Judge A. M. Anderson, in Bibb Superior court, had made an error in his charge and the refusal to admit evidence, according to Garrett. 10-13-44

On June 16, 1941, Bryant was retried and again convicted and sentenced to die, he declared.

Motion for a new trial was denied in April by the State Supreme court on the grounds that the former trial was regular in all respects, the solicitor said. W. A. Bootle, counsel for the defense, then asked for a rehearing which was denied in May, 1944.

The defense was granted a stay of execution for 90 days to enable counsel to take the case to the U. S. supremecourt. The 90 day stay expired July 27, 1944, and no petition had been filed with the U. S. supreme court. The 90 day

The Georgia State Supreme court sent down a judgment affirming the conviction which was reaffirmed in Bibb Superior court yesterday by Judge Atkinson.

Garrett revealed yesterday that the motion for new trial, as amended, with other records in the case, including brief of evidence contains 1,000 pages, the longest in the history of his 25 years as solicitor.

## Negro Arrested Here In Tampa Killing Case

News—Birmingham, Ala.
9-21-44

Wanted in connection with the stab-shoot slaying of a Tampa, Fla., deputy sheriff, a Negro, identified as Simon Peter Taylor, 25, and working on a labor gang of the L. & N. Railroad near Oxmoor, was arrested on the job by special agents of the FBI and by L. & N. Police Inspector R. C. Goad Wednesday, according to announcement by R. J. Abbaticchio, Jr., special agent in charge of the Birmingham field division.

Taylor was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Louise Charlton Thursday on the federal charge of illegal flight to avoid prosecution, and U. S. Atty. Jim C. Smtih recommended that bond be set at $10,000. 9-21-44

Deputy Sheriff Robert Max Saurez met death Sept. 2 when he went to serve a civil writ on Taylor, who had no previous criminal record. At that time, the Florida state indictment charges, Taylor stabbed the deputy some 40 times, then wrested his revolver from him and shot the deputy under the heart.

Taylor had been working on the railroad gang and living on the labor train for eight days when arrested. Abbaticchio said that he was carrying papers on which the name, Simon Peter Taylor, had been erased and another substituted in pencil, but that the name was still discernible under the erasure. The defendant, Abbaticchio said, was carrying a .38-caliber revolver still loaded with three shells at time of arrest. Taylor will be returned to Florida to face state charges of first-degree murder.

## Police Claim Confession In Montgomery Murder

Post—Birmingham, Ala.
10-4-44

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Oct. 4.—Confession of a 37-year-old Negro brought nearer solution today the murder of a Maxwell Field aviation cadet's bride, one of the most brutal crimes here since the turn of the century.

Police Commissioner W. P. Screws said that Worley James, brought here from Muncie, Ind., been in the Troup county jail on two assault charges, confessed since July awaiting trial on a that he killed Mrs. Ester Drew of charge of burglary in Hogansville. Decatur, Ill., and left her nude He is alleged to have struck and bludgeoned body in a muddy Jailer Harris over the head Tuesdrainage ditch the night of June 16. day about 6:30 p. m. with the post

He denied, however, that he from a chair which he smashed, criminally attacked her. He said he inflicting the injuries which accosted her with the intention of proved fatal. According to aurobbing her. When she screamed, he thorities, Lee then dragged the stabbed her. jailer into a cell on the third floor,

Police quoted James as saying where the assault occurred, took that he met her between her home his keys and escaped. As Lee and the bus line, near the drain- was escaping he was seen by anage ditch, and warned her not to other Negro in jail, who called for scream. He said she ignored the help. The keys were found Wedwarning. Then he stabbed her, but nesday morning under shrubbery he said he did not intend to kill near the jail. 11-4-44 her. 10-4-44

City, county and state law enExamination of Mrs. Drew's body forcement authorities had searchearlier revealed that she had been ed since Tuesday night for the ravished and about 24 hours before escaped Negro. E. V. Hilyer is her body was found. She was stab- Troup county sheriff. bed twice through the breast. She

Funeral services for Jailer Harlast was seen alive leaving Maxwell ris were held yesterday. Field, where she had visited her husband, Cadet Lynn Drew, whom she married three weeks earlier.

## Negro Admits Slaying Two Moundville Men Following Arguments

News—Birmingham, Ala.
10-29-44

MOUNDVILLE, Ala.—An argument over the loan of a half-ton of fertilizer Saturday was blamed by Oliver Patton, 44 Negro farmer of the Cypress community, for the double shotgun slaying and beating of two white men at Cypress Friday.

Patton told Hale County Sheriff C. W. Coleman that he fatally shot James C. Findlay, Sr., 36, well known Moundville merchant, and brother of Miss Mary Findlay, of 1331 South 34th Street, Birmingham, and John Parker, 39, a neighboring farmer, in front of the Findlay home Friday.

JAMES FINDLAY

The bodies of Findlay and Parker were found near a tractor at the Findlay home and Sheriff Coleman said in addition to shotgun wounds, Findlay's throat had been slashed, Parker's skull had been fractured and both men had been badly beaten with a wooden club. 10-28-44

Patton, who was arrested at Akron, about seven miles from the scene of the slayings, was being held in an undisclosed jail Satur-

Fatally shot Finlay and John Parker, who had accompanied Finlay to the latter's house on Oct. 27.

## Negro Is Sentenced To Death In Chair

Judge John T. Tucker of the supreme bench of Baltimore City sentenced Watkins to death after Watkins' execution.

Negro convicted by a jury of Joseph Stewart, Negro, who was convicted by a Hale County Circuit Court jury of bill collecter. A co- the slaying of James F. Finlay, Mrs. John Findlay. He was mar- death sentence imposed upon Cal- was sentenced to life imprisonment. Moundsville business man and ried and the father of two children, vin William Watkins, Baltimore farmer, has been sentenced to die James Findlay, Jr., and Charles following a hearing two weeks ago. Patton is charged with having

## Death Sentence Of Slayer Upheld By Gov. O'Conor

Sun—Baltimore, Md.
10-30-44

Annapolis, Md., Oct. 29 (AP).—Governor O'Conor announced today the commutation to a Baltimore bill collector of the death sentence imposed upon Calvin William Watkins, Baltimore Negro, for the murder of Joseph Stewart, Negro, who was convicted by a Hale County Circuit Court jury of the slaying of James F. Finlay, Mrs. John Findlay. He was married and the father of two children, James Findlay, Jr., and Charles

## Posse Kills Slayer of Jailer

Constitution—Atlanta, Ga.
11-4-44

LAGRANGE, Ga., Nov. 3.—Robert Lee, Negro who allegedly fatally assaulted Jailer Arthur Harris and escaped from Troup county jail Tuesday, was shot and killed today by members of a posse seeking him near Rock Mills, Ala. The Negro was brought to the City-County hospital here at 1:30 p. m., but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is reported to have admitted assaulting Mr. Harris.

According to authorities, the Negro prisoner, who served as a "run-around" in the jail, enjoying a certain amount of freedom, had

# Trial Is Set For Nov. 20

Informer—Houston, Texas 11-11-44

By TED WILLIAMS

HOUSTON. — The district attorney's office announced this week that the supreme penalty wil be asked for Julius Harper, 18-year-old Negro youth, and a member of a group of three youths, who made a written confession to the October 22 slaying of Clarence Edwards, 39-year-old white man, in Harper's trial which is set for November 20.

This announcement was made to the Informer Wednesday by District Attorney A. C. Winborn who stated that the case had been completed before the Harris county grand jury and a murder indictment returned against Harper.

**Two Found to be Juveniles**

The fate of the other two youths, both found to have been juveniles and not subject to the death penalty under the laws of Texas, still is uncertain. Mr. Winborn told the Informer that the other boys connected with the case will be handled after the trial of Harper.

The youths, Earnest King, 14, of 808 Dorothy; Joseph Davis, 15, of 1020 Nicholson, and Harper were arrested in San Antonio last week on other charges. San Antonio police said they discovered that the boys had Edwards' car in their possession and notified Sheriff Neal Polk of Houston who went to San Antonio and questioned the youths. It is then that they were alleged to have made the written statement. 11-11-44

The statement, as issued by the sheriff's office, revealed that the youths were standing on Heights boulevard about 12:30 a. m., the night the killing took place when Edwards drove up and asked them about the location of a night club.

**Acording to the statement the youths were asked if they wanted a ride to town; the boys accepted. While in the car the youths are alleged to have crowded Edwards from behind the wheel, turned and drove the car into the woods.**

One of the boys stated that he hit Edwards over the head with a Coca Cola bottle and then stabbed him. The other boys are said to have joined in with knives, cutting off both of the man's hands and his left foot.

Reports reaching the Informer which received no official confirmation, stated that Edwards encountered the boys in regards to "dating" a Negro woman, and that at the time of the slaying, the youths were leading him to such a place and person. 11-11-44

**Charged with Theft Previously**

All three of the youths were reported by the Crime Prevention bureau to have been arrested on September 10 for the theft of three Buick cars. All of them were released on the felony charges in the custody of their parents.

At the time of their arrest, the sheriff's office listed all of he boy's ages as 18. However, the ages of King and Davis in the crime prevention bureau and the 8th Avenue school, where they attended, was to the effect that they were 14 and 15 years old, respectively. Further proof of King and Davis' age was given by their parents, and from a check at their birth places in Brazoria county.

**As juveniles, King and Davis will probably be held in the county jail until their trial in juvenile court as delinquents. The chances are that they will then be sent to Gatesville reformatory and held until they are 17, when they can be given the death penalty, if found guilty.** 11-11-44

Harper's native home is said to be in Hallsville, Miss.; it is said that he came from a nice home. He is however, reported to have raped a girl in Mississippi and another girl in San Antonio, prior to his arrest. This was not official.

It is expected that District Attorney Winborn will personally head the prosecution, when the trial comes up in the district court.

**Arouses Colored Americans**

The case involving the boys has aroused the Colored Americans of this city to what they term the "extreme gravity of the delinquency problem among the Negro youths of the city." Mrs. Lulu White executive secretary of the local branch of the NAACP, spoke to the city council Wednesday afternoon, saying "The Negro youth will not become free from the evils of petty acts which will grow into serious crimes, until the authorities make some steps toward providing a place of correction for those who violate the laws of human decency."

The case, perhaps the most hideous with which a Negro of this city has been charged, has caused many of the prominent citizens of the city to blame the guilt of the youths if proven, on the laxity of the law in regards to Negro juveniles, and the failure to provide homes of correction for them.

11-11-44

At the time of the arrest of the boys all had registration cards, leading the sheriff's office to believe that each of them was 18 years old, according to Chief Deputy Jake Colca. It was later learned that the two juveniles connected with the case had their ages put up with their parents' consent in order to join the navy.

**Miss Lois Bandy, former principal of the 8th Avenue school, told the Informer that both King and Davis proved themselves to be delinquents at the school; they did not get along with the other children. Miss Bandy stated that King attended school occasionally last year, while Davis did not attend at all.** 11-11-44

All Negro organizations, especially the NAACP, have taken no direct interest in the case but are watching the progress of the prosecution with interest that the youths will be given a fair and impartial trial, without the element of race relationship becoming an issue.

Harper, who shall face the blunt of the case, inasmuch as he is the only one that can be tried at the present time, with the death penalty as the objective, has as yet been without the services of an attorney, hired by any person in his interest.

11-11-44

Certain details in the case still remain unsolved by the peace officers in connection with the case. Edwards was reported to have left his wife on the night of the slaying to go to the store. Several hours elapsed between the time that the father of three children left his home and met the three youths.

# Grand Jury Indicts Negro Who Confessed Slaying Cadet's Bride

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Worley James, 32-year-old Negro who police say confessed the slaying of Mrs. Lynn Drew, Saturday was indicted on four charges—murder, criminal attack, carnal knowledge and larceny of a residence—by the Montgomery County Grand Jury.

James, held at Kilby State Prison since his reported confession several weeks ago, was charged with killing 19-year-old Mrs. Drew.

He also was indicted on charges of attacking Bessie Williams and 10-year-old Jane Smith, and with larceny from the home of Jack Cobb, all Negroes.

In its report the Grand Jury pointed out it had "unanimously concluded that her (Mrs. Drew's) husband . . . was in no way connected with or responsible for his wife's death."

The panel declared it felt such exoneration should be made in view of "publicity to certain rumors, not well founded." It added an expression of sympathy to Drew, a Maxwell Field cadet.

Previously, no official mention had been made of Cadet Drew in connection with the investigation.

The nude body of Mrs. Drew, a bride of three weeks, was found in a drainage ditch June 19 near the private home in the fashionable Cloverdale section where she was staying while visiting here. She had been stabbed through the heart.

She was the former Esther Thomalla, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomalla, of Decatur, Ill.

# *9 Negro Soldiers Sentenced to Life*

THATCHAM, Eng.—(AP) — Nine American Negro soldiers were sentenced to life imprisonment by a United States court-martial Friday on murder charges over the shooting of an Englishman, an American military policeman and a soldier early in October.

A tenth soldier was acquitted of murder but sentenced to 10 years' hard labor for being absent without leave.

# Foulkes Asks U. S. Supreme Court Review Of '13' Case

Courier—Pittsburgh, Pa. 10-28-44

WASHINGTON—Attacking confessions he alleges were obtained from him under duress, Robert E. Lee Foulkes, a train employee, last Monday petitioned the United States Supreme Court to review his conviction for the "Lower 13" murder of Mrs. Martha Virginia James, wife of a Navy ensign, aboard a train traveling through Oregon in January, 1943.

Foulkes is under sentence of death in the lethal chamber. His conviction has been affirmed by the Supreme court of Oregon.

In the petition for a review, filed through Atty. Leroy L. Lomax, of Portland, Foulkes says his conviction was based solely on his purported confessions, which were obtained from him by police officers of Los Angeles, Calif., and Albany, Ore., through the use of whisky, threats of mob violence, beatings, long hours of questioning, promises and illegal documents, and the showing of gruesome pictures to him.

# TRIAL DOCKETED IN DREW SLAYING

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 22—(AP) — Worley James, 33-year-old Negro sentenced to death Tuesday night in an unrelated capital case, is docketed to stand trial Friday on an indictment charging that he stabbed a young bride through the heart last June and left her nude body in a drainage ditch.

The victim was 19-year-old Mrs. Esther Drew, of Decatur, Ill., who came here to visit her husband of three weeks, Lynn C. Drew, an aviation cadet at Maxwell Field. Her body was discovered the night of June 16 a few rods from the suburban home where she was staying during her visit.

James, who authorities say confessed to the slaying, but who denied when arraigned in court a few days ago that he did so, was convicted and given the death sentence Tuesday night on a charge of carnally knowing a 10-year-old Negro girl.

Circuit Judge Eugene Carter set the Negro's trial in the Drew case after Solicitor Temple Seibels had announced "new evidence" had been found to support the purported confession. Mrs. Frank Thomalla, of Decatur, the slain girl's mother, is here for the trial, and several civic leaders have been subpenaed.

In setting the Drew case for Friday, Judge Carter continued until the February term of court a third capital charge against the Negro—attack of a 23-year-old Negro woman. The judge explained a depleted jury venire prevented trial of all cases at the current term.

James has entered a plea of innocent in the murder case, as he did on the carnal knowledge charge. Three widely known attorneys were appointed by the court to defend him.

# *DEATH SENTENCE FOR NEGRO HELD AS DREW SLAYER*

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 25 (AP).—Circuit Judge Eugene Carter today sentenced Worley James, 33, Negro, to die in the electric chair Jan. 19 on conviction of carnally knowing a 10 year old girl, but the execution was stayed indefinitely when defense attorneys filed notice of appeal.

James, also indicted in the slaying of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, Decatur, Ill., was convicted Tuesday in the carnal knowledge case by a jury that ordered the death penalty. Under a recently enacted Alabama law, all death sentences must be reviewed by the state Supreme court, so today's procedure was routine.

The Negro had been scheduled for trial this week on an indictment charging him with stabbing Mrs. Drew to death, but Judge Carter granted a continuance until February on a plea of defense attorneys that they had not been given sufficient time to gather evidence to meet the state's charges.

# Negro Dies In Electric Chair After Clearing Companion Of Guilt

News—Birmingham, Ala. 11-8-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Joe Vernon, one of two Birmingham Negroes convicted for the fatal shooting of Bennie Montgomery, Woodlawn filling station employe in 1937, died in the electric chair early Friday after having confessed to killing Montgomery, and exonerating the other Negro, L. C. Bell, of the shooting.

"I am ready to meet my Maker," Vernon said after he had been placed in the electric chair. "I'm ready," he repeated just before the switch was thrown.

Before Vernon went to the electric chair at Kilby Prison shortly after midnight, Gov. Chauncey Sparks had announced that Vernon in a statement made at Kilby prison [illegible]

33d-1944

# Demand Stay for Negro Boy Facing Execution Tomorrow

Daily Worker-New York, N.Y. 6-15-44

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 14.—Inside state chambers the whisper went round—ssh, George Stinney dies on Friday, ssh. The press, one ear cocked to the execution chamber, the other for public rumblings, went hush-hush on the case of the 14-year-old Negro boy from Alcolu, convicted of slaying a white girl.

Today, however, like a rolling tide, the wave of protests began to stream into Gov. Olin D. Johnson's office in Columbia. Labor, Negro and white ministerial unions, workers demanded clemency for Stinney. The CIO Tobacco Workers at a meeting passed a resolution to that effect. The National Maritime Union appealed. Petitions throughout the state insisted on a stay until a fair and complete investigation into the case had been established. 6-15-44

South Carolinians are concerned about young Stinney. They remember how a white boy, 16 years old, who had killed a girl, had been given a "break"—and they are demanding that a Negro boy, 14 years old, get the same "break."

There were some who said the Feltwell case was different. Ernest Feltwell, after all, was a white boy. There had been a big hub-hub about the Parris Island boy's rape killing of a little girl. And the press hoped he'd be a good boy in jail and come out long before the end of his 20-year sentence.

As Frank Green of the CIO Tobacco Workers said:

"In the Feltwell case every precaution was taken. Three of the best attorneys were appointed to defend him and no expense was spared for mental examinations. Months were spent in investigation, and the court exercised every means of protecting the boy. By contrast, the Stinney case was railroaded through a brief period with virtually nothing done to protect the defendant." 6-15-44

## Aged Negro Executed In Missouri Gas Chamber

News-Birmingham, Ala. 6-16-44

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., June 15 (AP)—After seven reprieves, 73-year-old Allen Lambus was executed in Missouri's lethal gas chamber early Friday for the hay-hook slaying of a teen-age Negro girl.

The aged but still husky Negro walked steadily into the execution chamber soon after midnight after saying a quiet "goodbye" to the Catholic priest who attended him. In a few minutes he was dead.

Lambus gained 20 pounds in his last two months in death row. He died weighing over 200 pounds.

## Wires Pour in to Gov. Johnson

The Worker—New York, N.Y.

*We urge every progressive and liberal organization—and every person, individually, who believes in even-handed justice—to wire protests AT ONCE to Gov. Olin D. Johnson, Columbia, S. C., to stay the execution tomorrow of George Stinney, 14-year-old Negro boy convicted of killing a white girl.* 6-16-44

*The Negro Freedom Rally and Negro Labor Victory Committee, the National Negro Congress, the International Labor Defense and the Peoples Committee were among New York organizations which yesterday wired Gov. Johnson to grant a stay until a fair and thorough investigation could be made. The Governor was asked that the same consideration be shown this Negro boy as was shown a 16-year-old white boy convicted of a similar crime.*

## Psychiatrists to Testify

# Fisher Tells of Strangling, Clubbing Librarian to Death

Post-Washington, D.C. 6-28-44

By Jean Reiff

Testifying in a low monotone, Julius Fisher yesterday told the Cathedral murder jury how he strangled and clubbed Catherine Reardon "to stop her squawking," dragged her body to the washroom, where he strangled her a second time after she regained consciousness and then stabbed her in the throat with a penknife "to finish the business."

"She called me a black nigger and I got angry and smacked her. It looked like I got angry inside and it welled up in my chest. She screamed and ran. The screams got on my nerves and I got scared and nervous—the screams were so loud. So I ran upstairs, grabbed a stick and ran back and hit her with it," Fisher told the jury.

"The stick broke, so I choked her and she seemed to become unconscious. Then I dragged her out. I wasn't trying to kill her but trying to stop her from making the noise. She squawked again while I was wiping up the blood. I choked her but there was still noise, so I stabbed her. She stopped then." 6-28-44

The Negro handyman, first defense witness, described how he carried her body in his arms to the subbasement, washed up the blood with her panties and threw them beside her in the tunnel, then left the library not knowing whether she was living or dead.

"What did you do then?" asked Defense Counsel Charles H. Houston.

"I went home, got undressed and got into bed," Fisher answered. "I fell asleep and woke up in the afternoon. I was nervous as if I had a bad dream. I first realized what I had done after I woke up. I couldn't think of anything to do, so I stayed in bed until the next morning."

He spent the next day wandering around town, he stated. "I decided to give myself up, but I didn't have enough courage. I didn't see any papers and I still didn't know whether she was dead or alive," he explained. 6-28-44

Fisher told the jury that he was taken to police headquarters after his arrest in a local restaurant. While he was being questioned he was struck in the mouth by one of the detectives and kicked in the side by another, he declared. He denied that it had been explained to him before he made a written confession that he had constitutional rights not to make such a statement.

The typewritten statement signed by Fisher and introduced as evidence yesterday, was taken the night of his arrest by Detective Sergeant Richard Felber in the presence of several other police officers. 6-28-44

Felber testified yesterday that the statement was obtained voluntarily from Fisher and without any trouble. No violence of any kind was used on the man at any time following his arrest, he said. This testimony was verified on the stand by Detective Sergeant E. E. Scott and Pvt. Walter Vogelsang, who were present at the questioning.

**Denies Intentional Robbery**

Fisher also told the jury that about a week before the slaying he was called into his "boss's" office where John Berkeley told him that Miss Reardon had complained about his work. "He told me not to pay any attention to her, that she was half-cracked," Fisher explained. Berkeley, however, explained on the stand that he had not used that phrase but had told the defendant not to say anything to the lady because she was "peculiar." 6-29-44

The Negro janitor denied that he had intentionally robbed Miss Reardon of a class ring. He said that the ring had come off her finger while he was dragging her and that he stuck it in his pocket and forgot about it until he got home.

The argument between Miss Reardon and Fisher, which the defense maintains made him fly into a rage that resulted in the crime, was described by the defendant.

The following questions were asked by Houston and answered by Fisher:

Q. Who started the conversation that morning?—A. Miss Reardon opened the conversation.

Q. What did she say to you?—A. She asked me if I dusted. I said, "Certainly, doesn't it look like it? I always try to keep it clean."

Q. Then what happened?

A. She said that was what I was being paid for. I asked her if she was trying to get me into trouble. That's when she called me a nigger and I got angry and smacked her. 6-28-44

**No Resentment**

Fisher was asked if he had resented the complaint Miss Reardon had made about him to Berkeley and replied that he had never thought about it.

## WOMAN STABBED DIES IN PARK IN WASHINGTON

Times-New York, N.Y. 8-7-44

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (AP)—A woman, about 30 years old, was stabbed fatally while strolling along a footpath in a wooded area of Rock Creek Park today.

She died after giving the name "Mrs. Erickson" and a fragmentary description of her assailant to an Army officer and a young woman who were drawn to the scene by her outcries.

No trace of the attacker was found nor of the victim's handbag which might have carried identification cards. 8-7-44

William A. Snyder, a park policeman, and H. Ralph Pearson, another policeman, said that the man and woman who discovered the dying woman were Lieut. Leland Leroy Parker, who is stationed at Aberdeen, Md., and Miss Lucy St. Lawrence of Washington.

The police officers quoted them as saying that the woman described her assailant as a dark-skinned Negro, about 25, wearing dark clothes. Before she died the woman also told how she tried to escape by running, but stumbled over a rock. She was stabbed in the left chest and left wrist.

## $200 Reward Is Offered in Park Killing

Washington Post Washington, D.C. 8-11-44

A reward of $200 was offered by the Metropolitan Police Department yesterday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer of Frances N. Erickson, 34-year-old architect, who was fatally stabbed on a wooded path under the Q st. bridge in Rock Creek Park Sunday afternoon.

In offering the reward, Inspector Harvey G. Callahan stated that all information as well as the identity of informants would be kept confidential.

Anouncement of the reward was made after more than three days of investigation by police failed to turn up helpful clues or possible suspects. Several more persons were questioned yesterday at headquarters, bringing the total to more than 100, but all were released. 8-11-44

The search was continued for the woman's small clasp purse stolen from her and for the weapon with which she was stabbed, but neither was found.

Miss Erickson, just before she died, told of the theft of the purse and said her attacker was a dark-skinned Negro about 25 years old, but her meager description has been of litle help to police.

## Search of Park Fails to Yield

Washington Post Washington, D.C.

## Imaginative Version Of Erickson Case Revealed All Fiction

### Bulletin

The 12-year-old Negro boy who told police earlier in the day that he had witnessed the slaying of Frances V. Erickson last night admitted to Inspector Barrett that he framed up the story in order to collect the $300 reward.

## Boy's Account Of Slaying Discredited

Washington Post Washington, D.C. 8-12-44

## Slaying Clews Police Undermanned, Unable to Patrol Area Adequately

8-9-44

A thorough police search of the area surrounding the scene of the fatal stabbing of Frances N. Erickson, in Rock Creek Park Sunday afternoon failed to yield any evidence yesterday that they were still without a would continue their efforts until every lead helpful clew.

Homicide Squad officers, aided by men from the other squads at headquarters, and by uniformed officers from the precincts continued work on a number of leads, and several persons were questioned yesterday and police admitted they had been unable to turn up any helpful clew.

Miss Erickson died of a stab wound to her chest and heart. Before she died she gasped a meager description of a young Negro whom she said attacked her and took her purse, police said. 8-9-44

Robert J. Barrett, ad-Rock Creek Park, they said.

A 12-year-old Negro, picked up by Park police near the scene of the fatal stabbing of Frances N. Erickson in Rock Creek Park, yesterday told an exciting but imaginative story of how he had seen an 18-year-old Negro stab Miss Erickson Sunday after stating he would "like to get her money."

The boy said he and the older boy were in a gang of six, walking in the park, when they saw the woman walk down the path near the Q st. bridge. The gang scattered quickly after the stabbing, he told Park police.

Inspector Robert J. Barrett called to question the boy shortly after he was picked up, said later that the child had told nothing but lies. The boy stated that he had met the older fellow on 7th st., but he gave a fictitious name for the alleged slayer, Barrett said.

The child also told Barrett that he had told his mother all about the slaying, but this proved to be untrue. The boy stated that he had been arrested last month for a pocketbook snatching, but that too was false, Barrett said, adding that all of the testimony of the youth was immediately discarded as being untrue.

Earlier in the day policemen were ordered to make a house-to-house canvass with printed questionnaires to be filled out by persons answering the description of the slayer.

At the same time, Inspector Harvey G. Callahan issued a memorandum to every member of the force ordering all police officers to be on the alert off duty as well as on duty. 8-12-44

Inspector Callahan said that "any idle or irresponsible Negro observed to be spending unusual amounts of money, buying or wearing new clothing, missing from his usual haunts and associates since the date of the crime is a natural subject of suspicion and his activities should be checked and his identity ascertained."

He asked that persons guilty, accused or suspected of similar offenses in the past be checked and accounted for and promised that full credit and recognition would be given to any member of the force for his assistance.

# Police To Grill Negro Prisoner On Drew Death

Advertiser 9-3-44
Montgomery, Alabama

## Connection With Killing Not Yet Established; Held In Other Crimes

Capt. T. H. Goins and Lieut. Mike Chisholm, Montgomery police detectives returned to the city yesterday at 10:20 a.m. with a 32-year-old negro prisoner who will be questioned as to his whereabouts on the night of June 16 when Mrs. Esther Drew, 19-year-old bride of a Maxwell Field aviation cadet was ravished, murdered and left nude at the bottom of a Cloverdale drainage ditch.

The negro's name was placed on the record as Worley James rather than as Worley James Hart as he was described in a press dispatch from Muncie, Indiana, where he was arrested.

Chief of Police King made it plain that James was not arrested in connection with the Drew case but for criminal assault upon a negro woman in this city; burglary at the home of Jack Cobb, and armed robbery of Joe Emmett Wood of No. 1 Chase Street. Wood was quoted as saying he could positively identify James as the person who hit him on the head with a hatchet and took $7 in cash from his person.

While James's extradition was obtained in connection with these three cases, Chief King said he would be questioned very thoroughly in connection with the sex-murder of Mrs. Drew.

The similarity of Mrs. Drew's murder with other crimes ascribed to James was pointed out by Chief King. At the same time, he said, he did not feel justified in referring to James as the No. 1 suspect in the murder of the cadet's wife. "All I can say," the chief summed up, "is that James will be questioned until we are sure of his innocence or convinced of his possible guilt."

Meanwhile the police department was still trying to make contact with a blond woman believed to have been in Mrs Drew's company on the night she was murdered.

# Negro Sought For Murder At Night Club

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

## Liquor Dealer Slain; Woman Wounded

8-29-44

Middlesboro, Ky., Aug. 28 (AP)—City and State police tonight sought a Negro, identified as Samuel Russell, for the night-club slaying of a Middlesboro liquor dealer early today, Middlesboro Police Chief Charles Minton said.

Russell, Minton said, escaped after killing Hugh Jones, former Harlan restaurant operator, and wounding Miss Virginia West, Jones' companion, at the Silver Slipper Night Club on the outskirts of Middlesboro shortly after midnight. 8-29-44

Miss West, the chief added, is in "fair condition."

Minton, who described Russell as an employe of a Middlesboro dry cleaning establishment, said his investigation so far had failed to uncover a motive for the slaying.

# Edge Will Rule on Return Of Escaped Georgia Lifer

PM—New York, N. Y.
8-15-44

Gov. Edge of New Jersey will decide today whether Herman Powell, 31, escaped Georgia convict, will be returned to serve out his life sentence for the accidental killing of a woman in an automobile crash. Plea for Powell's extradition was made by Gov. Arnall of Georgia, and New Jersey's Attorney General Walter D. Van Riper said he would recommend that it be granted.

Powell, a Negro, served one year of his sentence in a Georgia county jail and fled one day when the sheriff walked off and left the keys in the door. In New Jersey he got a job in a war plant and lived as a model citizen for two and a half years.

8-15-44

Van Riper said he also would ask Edge to write Arnall asking that Powell be released after he serves the minimum term imposed by Georgia state law on persons convicted of automobile killings. He said Georgia law provides for the release of prisoners convicted of manslaughter after three years. Van Riper said that he had reason to believe Arnall would parole Powell on New Jersey's request.

Van Riper told PM yesterday that he had investigated the case for two months and had sent to Georgia for information. The case, he said, was reviewed by the Georgia Supreme Court, and there was nothing he could do about it.

Thomas Potter, of Newark, Powell's attorney, said he had cited to Van Riper instances from Georgia courts which seemed to indicate that administration of justice for Negroes differed from that given to whites. He pointed out that Powell had been convicted of murder "with intent to kill" and insisted that his client was guilty of no more than "involuntary manslaughter."

# Giant Negro Arrested As Suspect In Slaying Of Mrs. Esther Drew

News—Birmingham, Ala.

# Two Negro Escapees Sought After Killing

8-25-44

NASHVILLE—(AP)—A widespread search continued Friday for two Negroes, who Thursday afternoon escaped from the Davidson County Jail, leaving behind them the beaten and lifeless body of its 75-year-old custodian, Sheriff Claude Briley said.

The fugitives were identified by the sheriff as Morris Ridley, 25, and Paul Hamilton, 26.

City, county and state police joined in the search soon after discovery in a sixth-floor cell-block of the body of C. H. Polston, who had gone to that part of the jail to supervise cleaning the cells, Briley reported.

8-25-44

The sheriff said the Negroes, armed only with strips of bed sheeting, had attacked Polston, twisted one strip of cloth around his neck, forced the other down his throat as a gag and struck him a heavy blow with his ring of keys.

9-2-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Arrest of what police claim is the first real suspect in the slaying of Mrs. Esther Drew, 19-year-old bride of a Maxwell Field Army Air Forces cadet; who was slain in Montgomery last June 16 was announced in Muncie, Ind., Saturday.

It was announced in Muncie Saturday that Worley James Hart, 37, a giant Negro, had been arrested there and was being held pending his return to Montgomery to answer charges of criminal attack, robbery and burglary.

Hurt, officers announced, went to Muncie from Montgomery and was taken into custody by Lt. Malcolm Chisholm and another officer from Montgomery.

Following acquittal in Muncie last Jan. 25 of a charge of criminally attacking a Negro woman there, Hart left that city. The crimes in Montgomery of which Hart is accused in five warrants brought here by the Alabama officers, all were committed since Hart was acquitted and left Muncie. 9-2-44

Arrest of Hart by the Alabama officers resulted from information sent Montgomery authorities. Detective Chief Don Sipes of the Muncie police said. Sipes said they

measure to further the war effort and to improve the morale of workers, then the WLB had power to suspend the poll tax law, if, in the board's opinion, the morale of Negro workers would be improved by removal of the poll tax requirement as a voting perquisite.

Solicitor Satterwhite carried his argument further to say that if the WLB had power to suspend provisions of the Bradford act the board could also suspend the state's laws against murder or robbery, if the board believed such action would improve the morale of war workers.

Sen. Simpson argued that Walter had acted in good faith in the face of the union and WLB directives and that Walter had believed he was doing the greatest good for the war effort when he followed the WLB directive, which was issued from the Fourth Regional Office of the board in Atlanta.

Atty. Simpson told Judge Boner that the latter had two questions before him, the first being whether the Bradford act was constitutional and second if there had been any violation of its provisions in the face of the WLB order.

The lawyer also argued that Section 8 of the Bradford act was defective in that it failed to sufficiently define the misdemeanor for

# Arrest suspect in garroting

Tribune—Los Angeles, Calif.
8-23-44

An ex-convict from Jefferson City, Mo., was in custody of the police this week, charged with the garroting murder of Mrs. Stella Blauvelt, white of 744 S. Catalina. Mrs. Blauvelt was found dead in her home July 24, apparently having been strangled with a light cord after surprising a burglar in the act of ransacking her home.

Police give the suspect's name as Admiral Dewey Adamson, 46, alias Dewey Adams. His finger prints allegedly matching with those found on the cord, Adamson was arrested Wednesday evening in a cafe on W. Jefferson blvd. and has refused to make any statement so far.

# POLICE HOLD TWO IN WOMAN'S DEATH

Post—Birmingham, Ala.
10-10-44

By United Press.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Oct. 10.—Police today were waiting on results of a chemical analysis of bloodstains found on clothing abandoned by a Negro suspect in their search for the slayer of 60-year-old Mrs. Julia Guynes, rooming house operator.

The body of Mrs. Guynes, head battered and throat slashed, was found Saturday by a friend in a house she had just bought for $8000 cash. An empty money bag, which relatives said had contained $2000 in currency was found nearby.

10-10-44

Two Negroes were held for investigation and another was sought for questioning. The three were members of a van crew which had moved Mrs. Guynes from New Orleans.

# Appeal Argued

# Lyons Case In Supreme Court

Courier—Pittsburgh, Pa.
5-6-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Charging violation of the "due process" clause of the 14th amendment in that a reported "voluntary confession" was actually extorted, counsel for the NAACP argued the appeal of W. D. Lyons against the State of Oklahoma before the United States Supreme Court last Wednesday.

Lyons was represented by Thurgood Marshall, William H. Hastie and Leone Ransome, both of Howard university, sat at the table of the counsel for the defendant.

Lyons was convicted in Hugh, Okla., two years ago, charged with the murder of a white man, his wife and child. The act was supposed to have been committed with a shotgun. The only evidence picked up at the time was that Lyons had been in the neighborhood of the house hunting with a shotgun of similar caliber to the death weapon.

33d-1944

## Negro James Trial Put Off By Court

News — Birmingham, Ala.
11-25-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Circuit Judge Eugene Carter Friday continued until February the trial of Worley James, Negro, charged with killing Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, 19-year-old bride of a Maxwell Field aviation cadet.

Judge Carter upheld a continuance request, filed by court-appointed defense attorneys when the case was called Friday, on grounds there had been insufficient time since the lawyers were appointed 10 days ago to gather evidence and summon witnesses to meet the state's charges.

The court's action followed a sharp exchange between Solicitor Temple Seibels and Defense Attorneys John Sankey, Floyd Mooneyham and Edward Wadsworth, defendant's lawyers, charging the prosecutor had given them "reason to believe" the case would not be tried this term. 11-25-44

The lawyers said that, working under such understanding, they had concentrated their efforts in two other capital charges against the Negro. James was given the death sentence Tuesday on a charge of carnally knowing a 10-year-old Negro girl. An indictment charging him with criminally attacking a Negro woman was postponed.

Mrs. Drew, of Decatur, Ill., was stabbed through the heart and her nude body was found June 16 near the suburban home where she was staying while visiting her husband. The husband and the slain girl's mother, Mrs. Frank Thomalla, of Decatur, were in court for the scheduled trial Friday. 11-25-44

James had pleaded innocence as he had to the two other capital charges against him.

## Negro Denies Having Confessed To Slaying

News — Birmingham, Ala.
11-14-44

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—A denial that he signed a confession to the slaying of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew was made by Worley James, Negro, in Circuit Court here Monday.

James also entered a plea of innocent to the indictment charging him with the murder of the young Decatur, Ill., woman who was the wife of Air Cadet Lynn C. Drew, of Maxwell Field.

He also entered similar pleas to indictments charging him with attacking a Negro woman and carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old Negro girl.

Solicitor W. T. Seibels said James denied that he had made any statement concerning the death of Mrs. Drew, whose nude body was found in a surburban ditch June 16. Several weeks ago Police Commissioner W. P. Screws said the defendant had signed a confession. 11-14-44

All three crimes with which the Negro is charged are capital offenses and were placed on the docket for Nov. 20. Seibels said present plans are to try him first on the carnal knowledge charge.

## Ex-Servant Confesses Killing Wealthy Widow

Courier Journal — Louisville, Ky.
12-2-44

Evansville, Ind., Dec. 1 (AP)—Negro servant formerly employed by Mrs. Julia Gottman has confessed that he garroted the 80-year-old wealthy widow in her home last Tuesday night, Detective Chief Roy Perkins said today.

Perkins said Frank J. Quarles, 43, signed a statement admitting the slaying and implicating his wife, Lula, 26. Both had been employed by Mrs. Gottman, Perkins said.

Mrs. Gottman's body was found in her home Wednesday morning by her cousin, Hilary Yeager, when he went to the basement to adjust an oil furnace. A piece of sash cord had been twisted twice around her neck.

Coroner Edward Dauble attributed death to strangulation. Mrs. Gottman had been hit on the head but the blow was not severe enough to have caused death, the coroner said.

The coroner recommended that Quarles and his wife be held for a grand jury investigation.

**They Sought Shelter.** 12-2-44

Detective Perkins said that the slaying as described by Quarles occurred as follows:

Quarles and his wife, having been discharged by their most recent employer, had no place to stay Tuesday night and they went to Mrs. Gottman's home and knocked at the servants' entrance. They were admitted by the widow and upon gaining admittance Quarles struck Mrs. Gottman with his fist and then strangled her with the sash cord.

Quarles said his wife removed three rings from Mrs. Gottman's hands, then accompanied him to a bedroom where they ransacked a dresser and took a pearl necklace.

Perkins said Quarles' wife refused to make any statement in connection with the slaying.

**Estate Is $100,000.** 12-2-44

By coincidence, Quarles had been taken into custody prior to the discovery of Mrs. Gottman's body. He was arrested Tuesday night on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. Officers said they found in his possession a tape-wrapped piece of rubber hose filled with lead.

Officers investigating the slaying said Mrs. Gottman's estate is valued at $100,000. At the time she was killed she was believed to have had in her home $12,000 in cash, derived from the sale of property, but Detective Perkins said it had been established that she had deposited the money

## Slayer Lynched By Southern Mob

People's Voice
New York, N.Y.
11-18-44

LAGRANGE, Ga. (ANP)—Generally recorded here by Negroes as another of the many streamlined "legal" lynchings resorted to by Dixie mobs in recent years was the fatal shooting near Rock Mills, Ala., last Tuesday of Robert Lee, wanted for the bludgeoning to death of a white jailer, Arthur Harris.

Harris died in a hospital Sunday from blows about the head, allegedly administered by Lee, who is from Hogansville, Ga. Lee is said to have taken the keys to the jail and escaped. He had been arrested on a burglary charge.

A few minutes after news of Harris' death spread throughout the community, a large mob of angry whites gathered and led by Troupe County Sheril E. V. Hilyer began a search for Lee.

Lee was discovered lurking in some woods at nearby Rock Mills, Ala., and before he was summarily shot and killed, allegedly confessed his guilt. No one contended that Lee was armed or had resisted capture. 11-18-44

## Girl Who Killed White Attacker In Dixie Freed

Defender — Chicago, Ill.
8-19-44

JACKSON, Tenn.—Terather Bryant, 20-year-old colored girl who shot and killed a white man, Walter E. Proctor, when he attempted to criminally assault her, was freed Wednesday by Judge Frank L. Johnson, at the close of a habeas corpus hearing.

Following testimony of the witnesses, Judge Johnson ruled that the proof was overwhelmingly in favor of the petition as it revealed "one of the most sordid stories" ever unfolded in his court.

Counsel for the young girl defendant had previously entered the habeas corpus petition in the 12th Judicial Circuit Court following Squire John Cherry's refusal of bail in a magistrate's hearing on August 4 at Henderson county.

Miss Bryant, on her own accord, told authorities of the shooting immediately after it occurred and further volunteered that she fired the fatal shot to protect herself against deadly or harmful criminal assault.

Only two witnesses besides Miss Bryant were asked to testify by her attorneys, Martin Exum and P. L. Harden, in Judge Johnson's court. They were Charlie Shivers, a colored farm worker who drove her back to town after the shooting, and Deputy Sheriff Lois L. Acuff.

Attorneys for the officials who were defendants in the habeas corpus proceedings declined to offer testimony. 8-19-44

In a statement to the court, Judge Johnson declared that "If the facts alleged are true, she (the defendant) is justified in taking the life of this man." And after noting that the physical findings of qualified officers corroborated Miss Bryant's testimony, Judge Johnson concluded that "It is the judgement of this court that this woman is entitled to be set at liberty."

## Moundville Farmer Held In Connection With Murders

Alabama Citizen
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11-4-44

Moundville, Ala., Oct. 30.—Oliver Patton, local farmer, is being held in an undisclosed jail following his arrest in connection with the slaying of two white men last Friday. Sheriff C. W. Coleman of Hale County who captured Patton at Akron shortly after the shooting, stated that the prisoner had confessed and that warrants formally charging him with the double crime had been issued. From reports emanating from the scene of the murders it was learned that one of the whites, James Findlay, a merchant and farmer, had been financing Patton's farming operations and had disagreed with his tenant over this year's settlement. Angered, he is alleged to have secured the assistance of John Parker, the other white slain man, and gone to the home of Patton to further adjust their differences. The dead men suffered injuries inflicted with shotgun, knife and club.

## Cop Granted New Trial in Slaying

Afro-American
Balt., Md. 12-25-44

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A new trial has been granted Joe Davis, 27, patrolman, charged with first degree murder in the police station slaying of a white detective who had been acquitted of murdering a colored officer.

An all-white jury was dismissed after twenty-one hours of deliberation and Superior Judge Dudley W. Windes set the case for retrial January 31.

After the twelve men had been dismissed it was learned one of the jurors was not qualified and that thus any verdict it might have reached would have been invalid.

**One Juror a Criminal**

The unqualified juror, it was learned, had a criminal record, a fact not known to the court before the trial began. Fellow jurors said this juror was one of those seeking conviction of Davis.

The shooting of Leonce T. (Frenchy) Navarre, the white detective, happened October 4, in the Phoenix police station, an aftermath of the earlier slaying by Navarre of David L. (Star) Johnson, who was on the same beat with Davis.

Navarre was acquitted of murdering Johnson by the second jury to hear the evidence. The first was unable to agree.

Davis was the chief witness for the State during the Navarre trials and contended his fellow patrolman was shot down in cold blood. Navarre had pleaded self-defense.

**Claims Self-Defense**

The father of three children and the son of a post office employee here, Davis declared he shot Navarre in self-defense. He testified that Navarre threatned to "get" him and that the detective was reaching for his gun when he fired.

Davis testified that Navarre had threatened him during one of the detective's trials and that he relayed this information to James A. Walsh, county attorney. When the patrolman gave this information to the jury in defense of his own life, the county attorney objected, contending it was "self-serving."

"We never exchanged greetings and I watched him very closely," the patrolman said. "I will honestly admit the foremost thought in my mind was that Navarre would carry out his threat—I knew he would."

"Do you believe Mr. Navarre was reaching for his gun," Lewkowitz asked.

"Yes, beyond a reasonable doubt."

Herman Lewkowitz, one of Phoenix's best known criminal lawyers, pealed to the jury to return a verdict of first degree murder. Lewkowitz closed his appeal for Davis by charging that the State had built a case by heaping con-

## Negro Soldier Held In Planter's Death

Ark., was brought back to Mississippi Thursday to face charges in connection with the slaying of a 60-year-old Clarksdale planter.

The soldier, identified by Sheriff W. D. Rasberry, of Coahoma County, Mississippi as Lee Arthur Casey, of Camp Meade, Md., was taken into custody by Arkansas authorities as he alighted from a bus from

Miss.—(AP)—A Negro soldier, captured in Helena, Clarksdale.

Deputy Sheriff E. B. Hickey, Jr., of Helena, said the Negro signed a waiver to permit his return to Mississippi and denied knowledge of the slaying.

A posse of deputies and private citizens searched Coahoma County through most of Wednesday after the body of Hal Parchman was found Tuesday night on a road near Coahoma. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of "death at the hands of party or parties unknown."

Coroner G. P. Birdsong said testimony before the jury indicated Parchman was returning with Casey's wife, her sister and 15-year-old brother, from a visit to a physician, when the Parchman car ran into a ditch. The woman's relatives went down the road for help.

John Henry Smith, the Casey woman's brother, told the jury that when he returned he saw a soldier standing over the body of the planter and called out, "who is that?"

Smith said the soldier replied "this is Casey."

Smith said he asked "what are you doing?" and the reply was, "killing this white — —."

The coroner said the body was lacerated and several bones were broken. No weapon was found at the scene, he added.

# Victim's Pal Slays White Cop

Afro American 10-14-44
Baltimore, Md.

PHOENIX, Ariz. — A white city detective who was acquitted two weeks ago in the slaying of a colored patrolman was shot to death in police headquarters here this week by Patrolman Joe Davis, 27, principal State's witness at the white officer's trial.

Victim of the revenge slaying was Leonce Navarre, 51, who on May 2 killed Patrolman David L. Johnson, 32, after the latter insisted that a white friend of Navaree's be cited for a traffic violation.

**Self-Defense Claimed**

Navarre was acquitted at his second trial, the jury having disagreed at the first. He contended that he shot in self-defense when Johnson reached for his revolver. Davis, who witnessed the fatal dispute, said Johnson was murdered in cold blood. 10-14-44

Davis, the father of three children, offered similar justification for his shooting of Navarre. He surrendered to Chief James Duane at the city jail and will be given a preliminary hearing on a first-degree murder charge on October 20.

Early in the morning she was killed, her throat cut by a weapon believed to have been a knife. A marine in the Pullman declared he heard the woman scream, "My God, I can't stand this much longer. This man is killing me." He gave an identification which was secured only from a rear view of the fleeing culprit.

**DENIED CONFESSION**

Circumstances concerning his hours of duty as cook led to the arrest of Foulkes, who denied in court an alleged confession to California police, who made the first arrest.

The woman's husband, Richard F. James, was recently killed in a crash of a Navy plane near Pasco, Wash. He was also a native Virginian.

# Police Brutality Hit By Appeals Court In Denying Rogers' Appeal

Journal & Guide — Norfolk, Va.
10-14-44

RICHMOND, Va.—The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, in a decision rendered Monday, referring to charges of police brutality in the case of Silas Rogers, said:

"The assault made upon the defendant was a cowardly one, uncalled for and beyond the realm of justification," but declined to set aside the death sentence given Rogers upon conviction of killing a Petersburg policeman.

**The opinion confirming the death sentence was written by Justice Preston W. Campbell and said further: "Though not involved in the proceedings .... the record does disclose that the defendant was inhumanly assaulted by the police officers who had him in charge. Such conduct upon the part of the officers of the law merits our disapproval."**

**"BLIND-BAGGAGE" RIDER**

Rogers, a confessed blind-baggage rider from Raleigh, N. C., to Petersburg, was convicted in the Hustings Court of the latter city Friday, Aug. 29, 1943, for ert Hatchell the preceding July 18. 10-14-44

Hatchell and another officer had pursued a stolen car and when the driver leaped out and ran Hatchell followed him on foot, according to evidence at Rogers' trial. Two shots were heard and Hatchell was found dead near the Petersburg Hospital.

**TWO-DAY TRIAL**

The conviction followed a two-day trial and a four-hour jury deliberation.

Basing their defense upon false identification, lawyers for the defense, R. H. Cooley Jr.,

# Two Benning GI's Sentenced to Die

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

COLUMBUS, Ga. — (ANP) — Pvt. Curn L. Jones of Petersburg, Va., and Pfc. Allen M. McDonald of Heth, Ark., have been sentenced to death by general court martial at Fort Benning in the fatal stabbing of a white soldier.

The victim was Pvt. Dooley E. Parnell of Dallas, Tex., who was allegedly attacked by the two deskirts of Columbus on the night of August 30.

The verdict was announced on Saturday by Gen. Fred L. Walker, commandant of the infantry school, the appointing authority in the cases. 10-21-44

**Tried by Different Courts**

The sentence in each case must be reviewed by the staff judge advocate general in Washington and to the President for final review.

The defendants were arraigned September 27, before a general court-martial appointed by Gen. Walker. Pfc. McDonald's counsel moved for a severance, and the court proceeded to try and convict Pvt. Jones.

A new general-court martial tried and convicted Pfc. McDonald. No member of the original court sat on the second court.

# Nine Sentenced To Life Terms In Triple Kill

Tribune — Philadelphia, Pa.
11-18-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Nine Negro soldiers were sentenced to life imprisonment last week by a United States Army courtmartial in Thatcham, England, on murder charges over the shooting of an Englishman, an American military policeman (white), and a soldier early in October. The sentences, according to the War Department, are subject to review in the European theatre which has final review authority.

A tenth soldier was acquitted of murder, but was sentenced to 10 years' hard labor for being absent without leave. Sources which perferred not to be quoted in the War Department declared this was a terrifically stiff sentence for AWOL and would likely be cut down on review.

# Supreme Court Refuses Foulkes Case Review

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.
11-25-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Richard Foulkes, train cook, must die for the slaying of Mrs. Virginia James, young Norfolk, Va., bride of a Navy flier, in January of last year while she slept aboard a Pullman in Oregon state.

The United States Supreme Court on Monday refused to review the case, commonly known as the "Lower 13" murder case. (The dead woman had berth lower-13 on the Pullman). Foulkes is under sentence to die in Oregon's lethal gas chamber. Execution date must now be set.

**STARK TRAGEDY**

Stark tragedy surrounded the slaying. Married four months before, the young officer and his bride were enroute to his new station in the Washington state. Travel conditions necessitated they separate and he went on ahead. His bride never arrived.

# Youth, Convicted Of Slaying Aged Man, To Be Electrocuted

Informer—Houston, Texas

6-24-44

NEW ORLEANS, La.—

Death in the electric chair was the sentence read to 17-year-old John Dorsey, 3421 LaSalle street, on Friday in criminal district court by Judge Fred W. Oser, for the holdup slaying of Hyman Barkoff, 65-year-old furniture store executive, on last November 11.

Before imposing the death sentence on young Dorsey, Judge Oser overruled pleas of Edwin I. Mahoney, defense attorney, for a new trial. The defense attorney indicated that he would appeal to the supreme court. The date of Dorsey's electrocution will not be fixed by Governor James H. Davis until after the supreme court has passed on the case.

Dorsey, who was convicted by a jury on April 27 of the Barkoff murder, is one of three youths accused of fatally shooting the aged man during a holdup on Armistice Day at Toledano street between Baronne and Carondelet streets.

The other two youths charged with Dorsey are Robert Green, 17, 3318 LaSalle street, and Marion Miller, 17, 2513 Amelia street. Miller and Green were granted separate trials and no date has been set for their trials. 6-24-44

The three youths were arrested some ten days after Barkoff had been shot and fatally wounded by three young hold-up men. They were said to have confessed the killing and at Dorsey's trial on April 27, Miller took the stand for the prosecution and pointed Dorsey out as the "Trigger man." At the same trial, Dorsey charged that he had been beaten by police who testified he was in a theatre at the time of the killing, however, the jury found him guilty and the death sentence was mandatory. 6-24-44

It is believed that the case will be brought to the supreme court because of the lack of proper representation of Negroes in the grand jury panel which returned the indictments against the accused youths.

Early in March, Defense Attorneys Mahoney and George Graham, representing Dorsey and Green, respectively, contested the indictments and caused the examination of more than 1,300 persons whose names were in the grand jury panel. Of the number examined, it was found that between 84 and 90 of the persons were Negroes —or less than 9 per-cent. It was pointed out that Negroes constitute approximately thirty-three and one-third per cent of the population of Orleans parish.

Following a probe that lasted several weeks, Judge Fred Oser ruled that Negroes of Orleans parish were adequately represented in the grand jury panel and overruled the motions to quash the indictments. 6-24-44

The youths were originally scheduled to be tried in January for the crime; however, the trial was postponed then the indictments contested, Miller's attorney, Rudolph Becker, did not contest the indictment.

# Judge Frees Girl In Slaying Of Tenn. White Man

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
8-29-44

JACKSON, Tenn.—(AN)— Gentle mercy from the lips of Judge Frank L. Johnson, of the 12th judicial circuit of Tennessee, as he announced that 20-year-old Terather Byrant, alleged murderer of Walter Proctor, her white employer, could go free.

Although Lois Acuff, a deputy sheriff, endeavored to establish the fact that the motive for the killing was robbery, afer the girl described how Proctor had tried to force her to succumb to indecent sex relations, Judge Frank Johnson reased her 8-29-44

Attorneys for the defense were Martin Exum, white, of Jackson, and P. L. Harden, colored, of Terre Haute, Ind. The state was represented by the district attorney general, David Murray, and Atty J. E. Galbreath of the Chester county bar.

# Posse With Bloodhounds Captures Fugitive

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

BASTROP, La. — With armed posses of white officers from Louisiana and Arkansas following his trail with the aid of bloodhounds, Soloman Washington, charged with killing a Bastrop policeman, was caught near McGehee, Ark., last Wednesday. 9-16-44

Washington slugged Officer Dave White with his own revolver shortly after the officer arrested him for assault and battery on August 21. He had been at large since then, travelling at night and hiding in the woods in the day.

A Negro farmer, to whom Washington had gone for shelter, reported the fugitive's whereabouts to Arkansas police and has been promised part of the $1,000 reward.

# Negro Held No. 1 Suspect In Drew Case

Advertiser—Montgomery, Ala.
9-2-44

## Arrested In Ind... On Other Counts; ... To Have Admitted ... Car Seen At D...tch

### Woman Tells Authorities Auto Parked There On Night Murder Occurred

The first arrest in connection with the sex-murder of Mrs. Esther Drew, 19-year-old bride of a Maxwell Field aviation cadet, whose body was found in a Cloverdale drainage ditch on June 16, occurred yesterday in Muncie, Indiana, where a negro, who has faced several charges of criminal violence, was arrested for Montgomery police officers.

An Associated Press dispatch from Muncie described the negro as Worley James Hart, 37, and quoted Lieut. Mike Chisholm, Montgomery city detective, as saying he was the No. 1 suspect in the two-and-a-half-month-old Drew case.

Solicitor Temple Seibels was loath to discuss evidence connecting Hart with the murder and cautioned against over-optimism that his arrest might be the solution of the crime. He admitted, however, that street gossip to the effect that a negro had boasted to another that he had assaulted and slain a white woman applied to the negro arrested yesterday in Indiana. Solicitor Seibels said it was possible that Hart was merely bragging. 9-2-44

**Investigation Continues**

The negro's arrest, it appeared, resulted in no let-up in investigation in another direction.

It was learned yesterday that two city detectives had been sent to a Florida city to locate and question a young blond woman who was believed to have been with Mrs. Drew between the time she left Maxwell Field where she had gone to visit her husband, Cadet Lynn C. Drew, and the time nearly 24 hours later when her nude body was found in a ditch near her lodgings in Cloverdale.

Another bit of evidence which had not been made public also came to light yesterday and was confirmed by Mr. Seibels. It was that a woman residing near the Dupont Avenue address where Mrs. Drew lived, came forward with the information that on the night the young bride presumably was murdered she saw a car drive up to the edge of the ditch and turn off its light. She was quoted as saying the car contained soldiers. 9-2-44

Meanwhile no report of findings has been made by Alabama officers, including a technician of the State toxicologist's office, who went to Decatur, Ill., for an exhumation of Mrs. Drew's body. The body was exhumed and an autopsy performed.

# TENN. WHITE MAN KILLED IN A COLORED FARM HOUSE; WOMAN CLAIMS ATTEMPED RAPE

Plaindealer—Kansas City, Kan.
8-11-44

Jackson, Tenn.—Walker E. Proc..., white, age 43, residing on West King street, was found dead in a house on his farm about seven miles from here last Friday morning. The Sheriff, Ewing Griffin, was notified of Proctor's death by a colored woman who lived at the farm house and who admitted that she shot and killed Proctor in an effort to defend herself from abuse and threats on her life. When the officers accompanied the woman to the farm house they found Proctor's body lying between the bed and the wall inside the house. The woman was arrested and put in jail and investigation started to find other clues to the killing since there is not much inclination on the part of the whites to accept and publicize the story as told by the woman. Considerable secrecy surrounds the investigation and still more regarding the facts revealed, but there is no suspension of speculation and public versions of the matter. To discount the woman's report and connect others with the killing of this prominent white man would seem to find difficulty in furnishing motive for the deed. The robbery theory that has been advanced would test the credulity of the most stupid. Some questions would have to be answered no matter what explanation would be offered. Why would a white man leave his home here in the city and go to this farm house where the colored woman lived during the night or so early in the morning as has been reported? What was he doing in the woman's bedroom? The investigation may bring to light answers to these and to other questions. Many feel that the story of the woman furnishes the best and simplest answer to the questions raised.

# Camp Hill Boy, 15, Killed; Negro Held

Montgomery Advertiser

CAMP HILL, ALA., Nov. 29.—Dan Merritt, 15, was shot to death near Camp Hill late Tuesday afternoon, and a negro, Eldridge Stone, was being held for questioning by Sheriff C. E. Corprew in connection with the shooting.

Dan and a brother, Gordon Merritt, 18, were hunting in the woods near their home when they met Stone and several other negroes, who were also hunting, according to investigating authorities. A shot was fired and Dan fell to the ground. He died shortly after without regaining consciousness. The fatal shot entered his head, according to Chief of Police L. T. Langley, of Camp Hill, who helped investigate the tragedy. 12-30-44-Ala.

The boy is survived by his mother, Mrs. Myrtis Merritt, of Camp Hill, and four brothers.

# MUST DIE IN TRAIN SLAYING

### Negro Cook Loses High Court Appeal in Oregon Crime

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 — The Supreme Court refused today to interfere with the death sentence of Robert E. Lee Foulkes, Negro train cook, convicted of the murder of Mrs. Martha Virginia Brinson James of Norfolk, Va., on a train in Oregon in January, 1943.

The woman's husband, Lieut. Richard Floyd James of the Navy, whose parents live at Nassawadox, Va., lost his life in a plane crash on Sept. 18, 1944.

# Man Admits Killing Army Flier's Wife

Courier Journal—Louisville, Ky.
10-4-44

Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 3 (AP)— Police Commissioner W. P. Screws anounced today that Worley James, Negro, has confessed the slaying of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew,

# Electrocute Woman And Man For Upstate Murder

11-25-44
New York Age, N.Y.

Mrs. Fowler was the first woman to pay the death penalty in New York State since the execution of eight months ago. She and Knight were convicted of bludgeoning George Fowler, In her last hours, Mrs. Fowler received spiritual consolation from

October 30, 1943.

The woman was 37 years old her companion in crime, 27. They had been in New York in the death house more than a year since the execution of eight months during which time Mrs. Frances Creighton eight years they received two reprieves to pernight, for a hold-up murder in Ransomville, Niagara County, on River from which it was recovered.

OSSINING, N. Y. — Mrs. Helen Mrs. Frances Creighton and George F. Knight, Fowler, and George Knight, were electrocuted several weeks ago in Muncie, Ind., and returned here to answer both Negroes, were electrocuted two charges of raping Negro women.

here as Sing Sing Prison, Thursday a filling

the Rev. Bernard Martin, Catholic chaplain; and Knight was consoled by the Rev. Luther K. Hannum, Protestant chaplain. Each chose to eat the regular prison fare at the last two meals rather than make special food selections.

# Trickery In "Duck Hill" Trial Feared

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

## Famed N. J. Murder Case Takes On New Meaning: Accused Soldier "Mute"

11-25-44

By MELVIN B. JOHNSON

TRENTON, N. J.—Thirty-three year old Pvt. Clarence Hill of Hamilton Township refused to plead guilty to six murder charges in Mercer County Court here Thursday afternoon, forcing the presiding Judge Frank S. Katzenbach to order "not guilty" pleas entered on the record while Hill's counsel, Frank H. Wimberley, charged that "trickery" was being resorted to by the State to obtain a conviction.

Wimberley protested Prosecutor Walter D. Cougle's move against Hill peading to a second set of charges while others were pending against him. He asserted that the move "smacks of trickery."

The defense has pending for decision by Judge Katzenbach its motion to quash the first indictments handed down last January on the ground they were found by a Grand Jury on which there were no Negroes and therefore there was racial discrimination. Since then Wimberley and his associate, Robert Queen, have been pressing for a decision on their motion, which has been delayed by the court.

Meanwhile, the October Grand Jury, which included race representation, returned the second set of indictments, which Prosecutor Cougle sought to have Hill plead to last Thursday, while refusing to nolle prosse the first indictments as demanded by the soldier's counsel.

**Defendant Stood Mute**

When Cougle proceeded to read the new charges in court Thursday, naming the six white couples who were victims of brutal deaths, Wimberley responded for Hill, asserting, "The defendant stands mute." After each of these responses, Judge Katzenbach interjected, "The court orders a plea of not guilty entered."

During the entire proceeding the accused soldier, wearing a green sweater over an Army khaki shirt, stood expressionless. 11-25-44

Judge Katzenbach set Friday, December 8, as the date or the trial, after assuring Hill's counsel that the defendant would be tried on the second charges, only. The court also stated that if Prosecutor Cougle did not move to nolle prosse the first set of indictments against Hill, he would rule on the discrimination motion within a few days.

Wimberley contended that the prosecutor "had no right" to request indictments by a second Grand Jury while the first indictments were under attack on the race discrimination issue.

**Implicated as Sole Slayer**

Hill was arrested several months ago for slaying three white couples at various intervals over a period of two years. Though it was at first assumed that different individuals committed the brutal crimes, Hill later was implicated as the sole slayer on the basis of evidence which the police claimed they had uncovered. 11-25-44

Deciding that Hill was the slayer, the soldier's counsel say, the police of Hamilton Township, along with Trenton detectives, went to an Army camp near Moultrieville, S. C., where they succeeded in having the soldier transferred to Fort Dix, N. J., where he was placed in chains and held in a stockade for eight or nine days. Later, according to Wimberley, Hill was surrendered to the Mercer County authorities, who turned him over to the Hamilton police for four more days of rigid questioning.

While at Fort Dix, and later at the Hamilton Township jail, Hill is said to have signed several statements, which are expected to be attacked in court because of the mannr in which they were alleged to have been obtained. 11-25-44

**Father of Two Girls**

The father of two daughters, Hill is without a criminal record, his counsels point out, and during his long residence in Mercer County was greatly respected by his neighbors. He was also a former Sunday School teacher.

**First Indictment**

Hill was first inducted in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, just over the Delaware River from Mercer County. On the evening of November 2, 1940, a young white man named Howard Wilson was sitting in his parked car on the outskirts of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, across the river from Trenton. He had a young woman in the car. He charges that a Negro, "about 5 feet four inches and of a very stocky build, came up to his car and fired a shotgun at him. His first story was that he was alone, but he changed it later. He lost his left arm. 11-25-44

Hill is charged with this felonious assault by the Chief of Detectives of Buck County, Anthony Russo, and was accordingly indicted after his return from South Carolina.

On Saturday night, March 7, 1942, a Fort Dix soldier was in his parked car near the same lover's lane. A young woman was with him. This soldier, Private John Testa, was also shot in the arm and it had to come off. The girl friend was chased by the assailant and beaten over the head with his shotgun. She said she had a very good look at the assailant, that he was a tall, slim Negro, about six feet, and about 50 years of age. In neither instance did the police make a charge that the woman was criminally assaulted.

**Other Charges** 11-25-44

In addition to above crimes, police authorities also charged that Hill is also guilty of the following offenses:

The shotgun slaying of Vincenzo Tonzillo, young married man and Mary Mytovich, 15-year-old girl, in his car on Duck Island, on the evening of November 8, 1938.

The shotgun killing of Mrs. Katherine Werner and Frank Kasper, both married, on Duck Island, on the evening of October 1, 1939.

The brutal shooting of Mrs. Caroline Mericoni, married, and Louis Kovacs, single, on the evening of November 16, 1940, off Cpress Lane, within less than half an hour after they had reached that trysting place.

# BLYTHEVILLE NEGRO IS JAILED IN SLAYING

Memphis Tenn.
Commercial Appeal

## Taft Williams Held In Fatal Stabbing Of Naif Moore

12-12-44

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Dec. 11—Death of Naif M. Moore, stabbed by a negro porter after he allegedly had struck him with a billiard cue Friday night at a pool hall, resulted in Taft Williams being returned to jail Monday with a charge of murder expected to be filed.

Mr. Moore, 46, died Sunday night at Memphis Baptist Hospital where he was removed only a short time before when his condition became serious.

Death was caused by a hemorrhage of the brain, the hospital announced.

Both men were slated to face trial Monday in Municipal Court on charges of assault wtih a deadly weapon as a result of the altercation. 12-12-44

It was alleged Mr. Moore struck the 35-year-old negro after the two men became engaged in an argument when Williams racked balls for the white man.

After having been struck wtih the cue, witnesses said the negro pulled a knife from his pocket and stabbed the white man.

Mr. Moore had a cut in his left shoulder and a blow on the temple, also believed inflicted by a knife.

Not believed critically injured, he was removed to his home Saturday from Blytheville Hospital.

Services will be held Tuesday afternoon at the Baptist Church in Osceola, with burial at Ermen Cemetery there.

Born in Sarheen, Syria, he came to the United States with his parents when a baby. He spent most of his life in Osceola and Joiner, moving to Blytheville four years ago. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Samias Moore; three children, Vivian, N. M. Jr., and David; a brother, D. M. Moore of Osceola, and a sister, Mrs. Charles Cory of Blytheville.

# Kilby Ex-Guard Found Dead By Field Workers

Montgomery Advertiser
Ala.

## J. T. Mooney Missing From Capitol Heights Home Since Sept. 20

12-15-44

The body of J. T. Mooney, 103 Capitol Avenue, was found in a millet field on the Kilby State Prison reservation yesterday afteroon, and Coroner M. B. Kirkpatrick said the man, a former farm guard at the prison for five years, had probably been dead six weeks or more. His age was about 47. 12-15-44

In the case there was a strong aspect of a revenge killing, with a story coming to light of an altercation Mooney had with a young negro on Mt. Meigs Road shortly before his disappearance about the 20th of September.

Kilby Warden Carl Williams said the body was found at about 4 p.m. yesterday by a crew of prisoners who were topping the millet stalks in the field to save the seed. He said the field was last ploughed in late August. Coronor Kirkpatrick said Mooney was dressed in a blue Summer business suit, and that his wallet, with social security number and other papers was found on his person. He also wore a watch, but no cash was found on the body, the coroner said.

According to reports Mr Mooney worked at Kilby for five years, until Nov. 15, 1943, when he left there for a position with the ABC Board. A short time later he was employed by the L. and N. Railroad as patrolman on the loading deck.

Sometime in September, it was said, he went to Cincinnati, where his wife was residing at that time. He was said to have stayed in the Ohio city a very short time, before he returned to Birmingham, and then to Montgomery. A relative said that it was on the night of his return from Birmingham that he left his home on Capitol Avenue, and was not seen again.

Mooney's wife is in Birmingham at present, where she is with relatives. They have no children. A brother, Gordon Mooney, is employed by the State Highway Patrol in South Alabama. Mooney's parents and other relatives live at Wilsonville, Ala., between Birmingham and Sylacauga.

Also being investigated is a report concerning an incident which occurred shortly before Mooney's disappearance. . . about the time of the incident with the negro—when he offered to sell a pistol at a small store on the outskirts of the city. Bystanders said he offered to sell the weapon for ten dollars, saying he planned to leave town permanently.

It was reported that Mr. Mooney had visited friends at the prison shortly before his disappearance, but the identity of the friends could not be learned nor the exact time of the visit.

# New Indictments Irk Counsel Of Soldier Accused Of Murder

New York Age
N.Y., N.Y.
11-25-44

**TRENTON, N. J. — Scathingly denouncing Walter D. Cougle, Mercer County prosecutor, defense counsel Frank H. Wimberley waxed indignant when Clarence Hill, facing six indictments for the so-called "Duck Island Murders" was called to plead to six more, or the similar indictments found by the October grand jury against him.**

**Mr. Wimberley said that Mr. Cougle was contemptuous of the court in procuring six additional indictments while the motion to quash the six indictments found by the January grand jury had not been disposed of. He then directed the defendant to stand mute while Judge Katzenbach, presiding, ordered the clerk of the court to enter pleas of "not guilty" for him.**

**Judge Katzenbach set the trial of the first indictment down for December 8th and advised Hill's lawyers, Frank H. Wimberley and Robert Queen, that he would pass on the motion to quash the first batch of indictments in the meantime.**

**It is almost a year since Hill, a soldier, while preparing to serve his country, was picked up and lodged in the guard house at a camp in South Carolina on a mere suspicion and finally brought to Fort Dix where he was kept in close confinement until so-called confessions were wrung from him.**

**Defense counsel contend that there are several Negroes who have information that will completely clear the soldier of the charge, but they refuse to come forward and offer themselves as witnesses in his defense. It is reported that the slayer was a white man.**

33d-1944

# SOLDIER IS ARRESTED IN PARCHMAN DEATH

Memphis, Tenn.

## Negro Charged With Fatal Beating Captured In Arkansas

## WHEREABOUTS NOT TOLD

12-28-44

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 27.—Lee Arthur Casey, 25-year-old negro soldier, who is alleged to have beaten to death Hal Parchman, widely known planter of Coahoma County, was captured Wednesday afternoon at Helena, Ark., according to Coahoma County Sheriff W. D. Rasberry, who said the negro, following his capture, had been brought back to Mississippi and was lodged in a jail outside of Coahoma County for safekeeping.

Mr. Parchman was killed Tuesday night about 8:6'clock near the Farley Salmon home on the road to Coahoma. Sheriff Rasberry said Mr. Parchman had brought Tressie Lee Casey, Annie Harper and John Henry Smith, negro tenants on his place, to Clarksdale to a doctor Tuesday afternoon. En route home about 7 o'clock, Mr. Parchman ran into a ditch near the Salmon home. The negroes were unable to push the car from the ditch and Mr. Parchman sent Smith, a 14-year-old negro boy, to the Salmon place for help. The negro was gone so long that Mr. Parchman and the two negro women started to walk down the road to find help.

12-27-44

**Negro Started Quarrel**

They met the negro soldier, Casey, husband of Tressie. He immediately started a quarrel with his wife and knocked her down. She and Annie Harper ran down the road, leaving Mr. Parchman and the negro.

The soldier is then believed to have attacked Mr. Parchman. When the negro boy returned, he told the officers, Mr. Parchman was lying on the highway and Casey was standing over him. He said he asked Casey what he had done and he is alleged to have replied: "I just finished killing the so and so."

The boy reported the killing to the Salmon family and the officers were summonded. Mr. Parchman's body was run over by an automobile, officers believe. One arm and a hip were fractured and his body gave evidence of a beating having been administered.

Casey's wife told the officers he had come home from Camp Aberdeen, Md., to spend the holidays. She said she had not seen him since last Friday, but that she had heard he had been drinking heavily. She said he was due back at camp Dec. 17.

**Had Large Interests**

Mr. Parchman was 70. He had plantation interests near Lyon and Moon Lke. He had lived in this county for 30 years, coming here from Baltzer. His father, the late Hal Parchman of Aberdeen, formerly owned part of the land where Parchman State Penitentiary is now located.

12-28-44

Mr. Parchman was a member of the Lyon Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Chester Curtis Jr., of Lakehurst, and one son Hal Jr., who was engaged with his father in the planting business. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. C. L. Tubb of California and Aberdeen.

Services will be held Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock at the McInnis-Porter Funeral Home by the Rev. H. R. McKee. Burial will be made in Aberdeen.

# White Sleuth Killed Friend Of Policeman

Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

## Dies at Hands of Man Who Had Been Friend Of Man He Had Killed

10-28-44

By CARL LONEIA

PHOENIX, Ariz. (ANP)—A first degree murder charge was placed against Patrolman Joe Davis last week for the shooting of Detective Leonce "Frenchy" Navarro, white, fast draw pistol expert who was recently exonerated for the murder of David Lee (Star) Johnson, Patrolman Davis' one-time beat partner.

The cause of the trouble between the two officers is said to date back to Navarro's trial for the slaying of Johnson. During the trial Navarro is said to have met Davis in the hall of the court house and told him on two occasions that he would "get him for this," meaning he would get Davis for testifying against him as a state's witness. Although Davis' testimony pointed strongly to Navarro's guilt, the white city detective was exonerated for killing the Negro patrolman on May 2, after two trials.

**Threatened Life**

Davis reported Navarro's threats against his life to the county attorney and Police Chief Duane. Duane is reported to have advised Davis that he could do nothing officially about the threats but if Navarro were acquitted and stayed on the force no one could blame him for protecting himself if Frenchy attempted to do him harm.

Davis killed Navarro on the evening of October 4 in the police station here.

10-28-44

"I was standing in the hall reading the bulletin board when Frenchy came out of one of the rooms opening off the hall," the patrolman said. "When he saw me, he came to a dead stop and brought both hands up to his chest. I knew he was going for his gun and there was nothing for me to do but draw. I had no choice. There was nothing to do but draw and draw fast.

"When I shot the first time," Davis continued, "he grabbed at his chest on the left side and whirled around. The force of the slug must have spun him around. I was pulling the trigger for the second shot but when he turned his back I turned my pistol off and the slug went wild. Navarro ran back in the door and he came out screaming. I turned and walked to the elevator that took me (self operated) to the jail on the fourth floor with my pistol in my hand.

**Waited for Chief**

"I waited there for the chief to come. I wouldn't give myself up to anyone but him. When he came. I gave him my gun and he arrested me."

"I'm awfully sorry, Chief," said Davis to Chief Duane, "I'm awfully sorry."

10-28-44

A trail of blood marked Navarro's path back into the detective bureau. Where he fell, two large pools of blood formed. One of Davis' bullets imbedded itself in the wall near the swinging doors; the other passed through Navarro's body and dug into one of the doors. Navarro died before he reached St. Joseph's Hospital.

A former porter of a Walgreen drug store, Patrolman Davis is married and has three children. Joined the police force here in April 1942. Davis, 27, was born in Texas.

Amsterdam News N. Y. 10-28-44

# Jackson

Norfolk Journal & Guide

12

## The Case of Silas Rogers In Petersburg, Va.

THIS IS THE STORY OF SILAS ROGERS, a 22-year-old Negro of New York City, who is now confined in the penitentiary in Richmond, Virginia, awaiting execution in January, 1945. Rogers' home is in New York City, yet we citizens of Petersburg feel that he is one of our boys, because it was in our town that he was arrested more than a year ago. A few hours before his arrest a police officer by the name of Hatchell had been shot and killed in Petersburg, a half mile away from the point where he was taken into custody. Searching the town for the assailant of Hatchell, the police espied Rogers, a "strange" looking Negro, and decided that he was the man who had done the shooting.

DR. JACKSON

On the morning of the Hatchell slaying, an automobile, which had been stolen by some one in Raleigh, North Carolina, came speeding into Petersburg. The machine was driven by a Negro. In the car with him were two white soldiers whom he had picked up in North Carolina on the way into Virginia. Having their suspicion aroused by this fast running automobile, two Petersburg police officers, one of whom was Hatchell, chased this car until it reach the dead end of a street where it was wrecked.

12-2-44

Beyond this dead end lies a wooded area where shortly afterwards a shot was heard by persons near by. A man was shot—the man was Hatchell. Who shot Hatchell? Did Rogers shoot him?

A week or two later Rogers and his witnesses testified in court that he did not, and could not have done the shooting, because he came into Petersburg as a hobo on a Seaboard Air Line train from Hamlet, North Carolina and was actually at the Seaboard station in one part of town at the very time the shooting occurred near the Petersburg hospital in another part of town. (He had come all the way from Miami, Florida, and was enroute to New York to answer the call of his draft board for induction into service.)

**Witnesses for the commonwealth, on the other hand, testified that Rogers was the driver of the stolen car, that they saw him pass by the hospital and that a few minutes later they heard the shot which resulted in Hatchell's death. According to circumstantial evidence, then, Rogers did the shooting.**

**BELIEVE ROGERS IS INNOCENT**

So did the commonwealth claim, and so did the court uphold, but the thirteen thousand Negroes and many whites of Petersbug believe that he is innocent. We believe the railroad story and the Negro attorneys defending Rogers offered abundant evidence in court to prove it and, fortunately, they have found more evidence since.

Silas Rogers has been within the shadow of death three times since his trial in August, 1943, while he now faces death the fourth time. He was first sentenced to die in the electric chair in January, 1944. He was granted a stay of execution by the governor until March, 1944, but in the meantime his lawyers took an appeal to the state Supreme Court which action gave him another lease on life.

In a decision handed down on October 9, 1944, this high tribunal upheld the death verdict of the Petersburg lower court and again the judge set another execution date. This time is was for November 24th, but Rogers' attorneys secured still another stay of execution, this time until January 14th.

The case of Silas Rogers has given rise to a situation of which the world needs to take notice. Fortunately it has united the Negroes of Petersburg and surrounding counties in a way never known before. They have been so aroused that it seems that nearly every man and woman contributed something toward the three thousand dollar fund which was raised to fight the case. Workers went from door to door and collected money with ease.

**This case has brought new life to what was once a weak branch of the NAA**

CP. Whereas we formerly had less than two hundred whom joined all for the FOUR VERY ABLE ATTORNEYS 12-2-44 members, we now have sake of Silas Rogers. white people of Petersburg and the within the race fair very ably ed to the colored people and eight hundred, many of Finally, this affair has reveal vicinity that there now exists

Petersburg: and Spotswood Robinson, J. Byron Hopkins, and Lynwood Smith of Richmond—individuals who not only exhibited a profound knowledge of law and legal procedure in this case, but in a number of others over the state. They, and others like them in Virginia, command the respect of court officials everywhere. Negroes, then, need no longer have any fear about placing their lives and their fortunes in lawyers of the calibre of these lawyers.

The life of Silas Rogers is in the hands of Robert H. Cooley and his associates. Just now they face the difficulty of having their client condemned by the high court as well as the lower court, yet these attorneys are now devising ways and means of saving Rogers from the electric chair, and even finally in having him exonerated.

We the citizens of Petersburg invite the attention of the American public to this case—to us race-minded men and women putting up our money to save him, to our brilliant atorneys in using their wits to save him, and above all, to Silas Rogers, a model prisoner and a fine boy, who because of his faith in God and in us, is trying to save himself.

—LUTHER P. JACKSON

## S.C. Boy, 14, Dies in Electric Chair

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Accused of the allegedly confessed slaying of two white girls of Alcolu with a railroad spike, George J. Stinney, Jr., 14, died in the electric chair here last week, the youngest person ever to die in the chair here.

Although police reported that he confessed the crime, the boy refused to make any statement before going to his death.

Pleas for commutation of the death sentence on account of the lad's age were made to Gov. Olin D. Johnston by colored and white organizations, but the Governor refused to intervene.

## Court Rules That Painter Must Die

**District Attorney Edward J. Neary received word here that the Court of Appeals had unanimously affirmed the first degree murder conviction of John Ranford, Manhasset painter. He was found guilty here last Oct. 8, in the tire-iron slaying of Walter Nielsen, a wealthy Manhasset filling station owner. It was brought out that the prisoner had robbed him of about $80.**

**The defense asserted that Ranford was suffering from lead poisoning at the crime and did not know the nature of the act.**

## THE ED PATTON CASE

We high with relief that the Ed Patton case involving the murders of two white men by a Negro in Hale County has been ended. Although as expected the Negro was convicted and sentenced to death, the absence of any and all symptoms of mob violence and the cordial relations maintained by the races in spite of this trouble are not to be overlooked. We do not know the circumstances surrounding this tragedy and are not able to judge the innocence or guilt of the accused but we do hope that he received a fair and just trial. We do feel that the conduct of the citizens in the community involved was commendable and that this type of spirit should prevail everywhere regardless of the nature of the crime or the race of the person accused. While we hope that there will never be another case of this type in the state, we must not forget some of the underlying causes of interracial friction in this case and others. Poverty and ignorance are twin factors in nearly all of our trouble of this kind. The elevation of the Negro's economic status and creation of greater educational opportunities for him will eliminate all grounds for this trouble. Again let us praise the citizens of Hale County for the fine, cool spirit exhibited during moments of this kind.

## Harlem Cop Faces Murder Trial Soon

By CARL DUNBAR LAWRENCE

Patrolman George Brown, 38-year-old honor cup accused in the fatal shooting of an Army sergeant and his bride of only fifteen hours, will go on trial next Monday, Nov. 27, with General Sessions Judge James G. Wallace presiding.

A blue-ribbon jury, assured this week when a special panel of 150 prominent New Yorkers was decided upon in the presence of Supreme Court Justice William T. Collins, will decide Patrolman Brown's fate.

22 as they walked through W. 131st ence Brown and his wife, Mildred Scott Brown, who operated a beauty salon at 114 W. 137th Street, were shot to death at 12:30 a. m. on June 22 as they walked through 131st Street.

They had been married the day before at City Hall and the soldier was on his way to 241 W. 131st Street, where his sister-in-law and other relatives lived.

The officer was arrested three hours after the shooting at his home in Corona, L. I. He denied vehemently having been near the scene of the shooting, but the investigation showed otherwise and he was indicted for first degree murder twice.

If tradition is followed, only white men and women will serve on the jury. Although Negroes are occasionally summoned for such jury duty, seldom are they accepted.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Jacob Grumet, prosecutor in the widely publicized Wayne Lonergan murder trial, will handle the people's case against the officer and will probably be assisted by Asst. Dist. Atty. James Yeargin, only Negro assistant in the New York County District Attorney's office.

Patrolman Brown is represented by Atty. Samuel Segal, who is expected to have at least one Negro lawyer associated with him.

Mr. Segal declined to talk with reporters about what his defense is going to be, but it was believed that before the trial ends Brown will take the witness stand and deny again that he was near the scene when Sgt. Brown and his wife were murdered.

Mr. Grumet likewise brushed off reporters when asked about the weapon used in the shooting and whether any eye witnesses would be called to identify the policeman as the actual killer.

Interest in the forthcoming courtroom drama increased when the trial date was annqunced. Most of the country's big weeklies plan to give the trial first-hand coverage and, judging from the attitude of reporters covering the Criminal Courts building, many of the dailies will do the same thing.

Much of the interest shown toward Patrolman Brown comes as a result of his personal popularity. On many occasions he served as bodyguard to Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis when the latter first gained fame. At other times he was given other important assignments involving stage and movie stars.